

February, 1976, draft amendment to Rule 71(4) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules was published inviting objections and suggestions from the public. After considering the comments received from the various quarters amendment to the rule was finalised and formally notified on 16th July 1977. The said amendment provides that manufacturers of drugs should have their own testing laboratories. The object of this amendment is that the manufacturers should be able to assure themselves by their own tests regarding the quality of their products rather than depend upon reports of other, external laboratories.

Government are not aware of any small manufacturing units having been forced to close down their units as a result of the amendment referred to by the Hon'ble Member.

(c) Representations have been received from two small scale manufacturing units which are under consideration.

खनिजों का निर्यात और तैयार माल का आयात

* 234. श्री यज्ञवल्त शर्मा :

श्री फूल चन्द वर्मा :

क्या इस्पात और खान मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या खनिजों का निर्यात किया जाता है और उनसे बने तैयार माल का आयात किया जाता है, और

(ख) यदि हा, तो ऐसे खनिजों के नाम क्या हैं ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रों (श्री बीजू पटनायक) : (क) और (ख) हमारे मुख्य खनिज निर्यात लौह-अयस्क, मैंगनीज अयस्क, क्रोमाइट, अश्रक तथा वैंगड्ट्स हैं। इस्पात की कुछ संश्लिष्ट किस्मों का जिनका देश में उत्पादन नहीं होता या जिनका

देशी उत्पादन अपर्याप्त है, तथा कुछ संश्लिष्ट किस्म के निमित्त अश्रक उत्पादों का, जिनका देश में उत्पादन नहीं होता है, आयात किया जाता है। विशेष किस्म की लौह-मिश्र धातुओं का भी थोड़ा सा आयात किया जाता है लेकिन उस आयात की तुलना में लौह-मिश्र धातुओं का निर्यात काफी अधिक है।

Employees' Provident Fund for Bidi Workers

* 235. SHRI M RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to extend the Employees' Provident Fund to "bidi" workers; and

(b) if so, when the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STAFF IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA): (a) and (b) The Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 has already been extended to the industry engaged in the manufacture of bids with effect from 31st May 1977.

Increase in Number of Passport Applications

* 236. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that applications for fresh passport have shot up considerably after the new, liberalised rules re. passport applications came into force from August 15, 1977; and

(b) if so, the full facts thereof, giving a State-wise break-up?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes Sir. The 9 regional passport offices received