

(c) The anti-smuggling drive, in general, has been intensified throughout the country to prevent the smuggling of goods, including drugs.

Multiplicity of trade unions

*456. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 124 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th August, 1987 and state what progress has since been made in the matter of bringing forward a comprehensive legislation to check the multiplicity of trade unions in an industrial unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): The proposed Bill is under finalisation.

Irregularities in N.T.C. Ltd., New Delhi

*457. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE
GOWDA: SHRI BIR BHADRA
PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether the National Textiles Corporation Limited, New Delhi is reported to have violated relevant provisions of the Companies Act in conducting its business;

(b) whether the Corporation has not yet finalised its annual accounts for the year 1986-87 nor has it formulated the annual production plan and the Memorandum of Understanding for the year 1987-88;

(c) whether the Corporation has been defying decisions of the Board of Directors; and

(d) if so, what action is being proposed to be taken to remove the present management and appoint competent management immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) The annual accounts of (NTC Holding Company) for the year 1986-87 have been finalised. They have, however, yet to be adopted by the AGM. The annual production plan and the Memorandum of Understanding for the 1987-88 has been prepared by NTC and is under consideration of the Government.

(c) No, Sir..

(d) Does not arise.

भोपाल गैस पीड़ितों को ऋणों का संवितरण

*458. श्री चन्द्रका प्रसाद त्रिपाठी :
क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) स्टेप अप योजना के अन्तर्गत भोपाल गैस पीड़ितों को ऋणों का संवितरण किये जाने के सम्बन्ध में क्या प्रगति की गई है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि ऋणों की स्वीकृति देने की गति बहुत धीमी है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसको तेज करने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ; और

(घ) सरकार असहयोगी बैंकों के खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनार्दन पंजारी) : (क) से (घ) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने सूचित किया है कि बैंकों ने शहरी गरीबों के विशेष प्रशिक्षण और रोजगार कार्यक्रम (स्टेप अप) के अन्तर्गत भोपाल गैस पीड़ितों के 16456 मामलों में 9.53 करोड़ रुपए की राशि मंजूर की है। आगे चल कर यह भी बताया गया है कि सितम्बर, 1987 के अन्त तक 14279 मामलों में 7.89 करोड़ रुपए की राशि का भुगतान किया जा चुका था।

इन ऋणों को मंजूर करने और इनके संवितरण के बारे में प्रगति पर अपर कलक्टर, भोपाल और संस्थागत वित्त निदेशालय, मध्य प्रदेश, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक,

अग्रणी बैंक और संबद्ध बैंकों के प्रति-
निधियों को मिला कर बनाए गए एक
कृत्रिम बल द्वारा स्थानीय स्तर पर निरन्तर
नज़र रखी जा रही है। नए मामले
प्रायोजित करने पड़ेंगे ताकि बैंक कार्यक्रम
के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त कर
सकें।

Reduction in import duty on Copper

*459. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP
SINGH; SHRI D. B.
CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state;

(») whether Government have received any
memorandum for the re-duction of import
duty on copper;

(b) whether the Bureau of Indus-
trial Costs and Prices is already con-
sidering the issue of fixing domestic
copper price and is to submit its re-
port soon to Government;

(c) whether the traders have urged
Government to do away with the im-
port duty prior to receipt of BI CP's
report;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;
and

(e) what further action is being proposed
to stop such a move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K.
GADHVI): (a) to (e) the Bureau of Industrial
Costs and Prices has been asked to make a
comprehensive study of the domestic cost of
production of copper and also recommend a
suitable pricing policy for copper in the
country. Their report is awaited. Meanwhile,
Government has received representations from
associations representing copper consuming
industries for reduction in import duty on
copper on the ground of steep rise of copper
prices in the country due to increase in
international prices and exchange rate of
Pounds Sterl-

ing. The matter is under examination of
the Government.

Discrimination in grant of pension to freedom fighters

*460. DR. H. P. SHARMA; Will the
Minister Of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to
state:

(a) what are the reasons for mak-
ing a, discrimination in the grant of
pensions to the freedom fighters on
the ground of the date of application
even if the services rendered to the
nation are exactly the same includ-
ing the duration of confinement, suf-
ferings undergone, etc.; and

(b) whether Government would
consider removing this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Under the
liberalised Swatantrata Sainik Samman
Pension Scheme 1980, the last date fixed for
receipt of applications was 31.7.1981 which
was later extended to 31.3.1982. However, all
those who had applied under the Freedom
Fighters Pension Scheme 1972 were not
required to apply afresh. As such sufficient
opportunity was given to freedom fighters to
file their applications in time. However, in
order not to deprive deserving persons of the
Sant-man Pension and other benefits, ap-
plication for pension are accepted even when
these are presented after the last date when the
claim is based on documentary evidence and
credible reasons are forthcoming for delay in
submission of application. This is by way of
exception to the general rule. The intention is
merely to extend the benefits and facilities
available under the Swatantrata Sainik
Samman Pension Scheme to freedom fighters
whose suffering is proved by official records
even though, they had not applied before the
last date. There is no intention to discriminate
in the grant of pension to freedom fighters.

(b) Does not arise.