

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): No reasonable estimate of the quantum of synthetic fabrics smuggled into the country is feasible as smuggling, being a clandestine activity, does not by its very nature lend itself to any quantification. However, reports received and seizures made indicate that synthetic fabrics continue to be sensitive to smuggling.

The drive against smuggling has been intensified. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs Department remain vigilant against smuggling activities in general and commodities including synthetic fabrics, sensitive to smuggling. The trends and seizures made are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial measures in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities, as warranted.

Strengthening of Inspectorates of Explosives and Factories

1091. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state what steps are being taken to strengthen the Inspectorates of Explosives and Factories to ensure the safety of workers and members of the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): In so far as Factory Inspectorates are concerned, the State Governments have been advised to increase the strength of factory inspectors so that every State has got one Inspector for 150 factories. They have also been told to have adequate number of specialised Inspectors, namely, Chemical Inspectors, Medical Inspectors and the like so that the provisions of the Factories Act are effectively enforced. Information in respect of the Inspectorate of Explosives is being collected.

Generation of black money by Sugar Industry

1092. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Sugar Mills Association has brought out a booklet to refute the conclusions contained in the report on black money prepared by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy regarding generation of black income in the sugar industry;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) The points raised in the said booklet will be kept in view while framing the long term fiscal policy.

सफाई कर्मचारियों पर औद्योगिक विवाद अधिनियम का लागू किया जाना

1093. श्री अछूते लाल बाल्मीक : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या औद्योगिक विवाद अधिनियम, 1947 के उपबन्ध विभिन्न नगर निगमों और नगर बोर्डों में कार्यरत सफाई कर्मचारियों पर लागू होते हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में सभी राज्य सरकारों को अनुदेश देने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (क) और (ख) का उत्तर "नहीं" है तो इन उपबन्धों को कब तक लागू किये जाने की सम्भावना है ?

भ्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी० अर्जुन) : (क) जी, हाँ।

(ख) चूँकि यह मामला राज्य सरकारों के कार्य क्षेत्राधिकार में आता है, इसलिए उन्हें अनुदेश जारी करने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Performance of Steel Industry

1094. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of the steel industry in the country is not satisfactory;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what remedial measures have been taken so far by Government to save the vital and basic industry?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) There is scope for improvement in the performance of the steel industry in the country. The predominant features of the integrated steel plants in the country is their high cost of production due to low capacity utilisation, high energy consumption, deterioration in the quality of raw materials, inadequate power supply from public utilities, obsolete technology, ageing of equipment, high labour component and the need to bring about a change in the work culture in the industry.

The installed capacity in the mini steel sector is also under-utilised; in the last 2-3 years, the average capacity utilisation of the working electric arc furnace units has been between 65—75 per cent largely on account of inadequate availability of power.

(c) Schemes have been drawn up for better maintenance of public sec-

tor steel plants, their modernisation and for removal of bottlenecks. Efforts are also being made to ensure cordial industrial relations and to inculcate a new work culture in the steel fraternity. The various schemes for plant modernisation will help in providing better blending of raw materials, reduction in energy consumption, improved productivity and better capacity utilisation—all measures which should enable the Indian steel industry to contain the rising costs of production.

Steps continue to be taken to ensure adequate availability of raw material and power to the mini steel sector and the re-rollers.

Hours of work for industrial workers

1095. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no uniformity in the hours of work for the industrial workers;

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

(c) what steps Government propose to take to bring about uniformity in the hours of work for all industrial workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJALIAH): (a) to (c) Hours of work have been specified in the respective labour laws concerning workers in factories, mines, plantations, transport undertakings, shops and commercial establishments, etc. The normal working hours are 8 hours a day and 48 hours in a week.

Indian Labour Conference in Delhi

1096. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Labour Conference has been called in