

manufacture of insulators for power equipment industry;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof;

(c) to what extent BHEL is likely to improve its performance in the export market in the developing countries as a result of the agreement; and

(d) what is the present production of insulators by BHEL and how much is proposed to be increased as a result of the collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
(SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Agreement NGK shall assist BHEL in the improvement of existing products and development of new products. The agreement involves a lump-sum payment and also royalty on new products and the duration will be for a period of five years from the date it is taken on record by the Government.

(c) BHEL's first commitment is to supply quality insulators to customers in India and to meet the domestic demand. However since NGK are one of the leading manufacturers of insulators in the world, it is expected that the products manufactured by BHEL under technical collaboration with them would be acceptable to foreign customers also.

(d) During the year 1981-82 BHEL produced 5463 MT of insulators. The production is expected to reach 5,700 MT during 1982-83. They hold an industrial licence for the manufacture of 7,500 MT of insulators. They have also been given a letter of intent for 16,000 MT of additional capacity. While the NGK know-how is expected to help BHEL in improving the quality and production, the planned increase in production would not be directly related to the technical collaboration.

Indian steel pipes and tubes manufacturing unite

2679. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian steel pipes and tubes manufacturing units already gripped by severe recession are facing further crisis by cut-throat competition in the tenders for public sector projects in the country, by the United States, West German and Japanese firms; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to prevent closing down of indigenous units as a result of dumping of foreign supplies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) The production of steel pipes and tubes during the year 1982 has been almost at the same level as in 1981. The industry is not therefore in grip of severe recession as such. The Indian pipe and tube industry is meeting the domestic demand of general categories of tubes and imports are not being permitted. However, for special tubes, termed as casing pipes, one case of possible low prices in the tenders from foreign firms has been recently highlighted. On this basis, it would be premature to apprehend that indigenous units are facing a threat of closure as a result of dumping of foreign supplies.

Cuts proposed in Annual Plans

2680. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission is proposing a cut of about 15 to 20 per cent in the annual plans of different States for 1983-84;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministries/Departments of Railways, Transport, Coal, Steel and Fertilizer