

Closure of small industries in Gujarat

285. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small industries in Gujarat have closed down due to shortage of pig iron and other raw material;

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

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by small industries (including those in Gujarat) using Pig Iron Steel, Coke etc. Government have received representations from the associations and others in regard to the difficulties in procurement of some of the above raw materials, to meet their full capacity requirement.

(c) Government have taken steps to augment the supplies of scarce categories of raw materials in the ferrous and non-ferrous categories through imports. Simultaneously, steps have been initiated by the State Government of Gujarat to weed out the non-actual users of these raw materials and to rationalise the supplies available to the genuine small scale units in the state.

Learning of regional language by IAS recruits

286. PROF. RAM LAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that I. A. S. recruits are required to learn the regional language of the State which they opt for allotment;

(b) whether this rule is being followed in all cases;

(c) if so, what is the State-wise position in this regard; and

(d) what measures Government propose to take to enforce this rule in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when ready.

Shortage of scooters

287. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of two wheeler scooters;

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

(c) what was the demand of various types of two wheeler scooters during 1978-79;

(d) what was the production of various types of scooters during the last three years; and

(e) what measures Government propose to take for increasing the production to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A statement is attached.

(e) Various measures have been taken to increase production to meet projected increases in demand. These include authorisation to M/s. Bajaj Auto Ltd. for augmenting their capacity and steps taken towards increasing production in the Central public sector undertaking.—Scooters India Limited at Lucknow.