

arise from arrangements to be concluded by organisations and parties of both the countries.

#### Closure of industrial units

730. SHRI SAWAISINGH  
SISODIA:  
SHRIMATI HAMIDA  
HABIBULLAH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of industrial units closed down on account of their being sick, or on account of malpractices or some other reasons during the year, 1978-79;

(b) what is the number out of them which have been taken over by Government during that year; and

(c) what is the number of persons rendered unemployed on account of closure of these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (c). Information regarding the industrial units lying closed in the country and details pertaining to them are not centrally maintained in this Ministry. However, information which is centrally collected by the Ministry of Labour on factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948, which are lying closed for long or short duration is given in standard tabulated forms published in the Indian Labour Journal which is a monthly publication of the Labour Bureau, Government of India. Copies of the publication are available in Parliament House Library.

(b) The management of 11 industrial undertakings has been taken over under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 during the financial year 1978-79.

#### Demand and supply of wrist watches

731. SHRI SAWAISINGH  
SISODIA:  
SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the demand and supply of the wrist watches

in the country during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) what is the estimated demand and supply of the watches for the year 1979-80?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). The precise estimate of demand of a consumer item like wrist watches is difficult to compute. However, a Task Force on watch industry constituted by this Ministry has broadly worked out the estimate of demand and production of wrist watches as given below:

(in million pieces)

Year	Demand	Production
1976	5	1.4
1977	6	4
1978	6.5	5.6
1979	7	5.4

All efforts are being made to maximise domestic production of wrist watches to meet the demand for it.

#### Quantity of cotton purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India

732. SHRI GHOUSE MOHTUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state what is the total quantity of cotton purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India during the year 1978?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): The Cotton Corporation of India has purchased 5.16 lakh bales upto 22-2-1979 during the current season.

#### Decontrol of the prices of scooters of various makes

733. SHRI A. P. JANARDHANAM:  
SHRI M. KADERSHAH:  
SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of scooters of various makes have gone up after the decontrol of scooter distribution; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to check the price rise and if so, what success has been achieved in this direction during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI-MATI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b). The statutory control on distribution of scooters, which was rescinded with effect from 1-1-78, was last applicable to Bajaj-150, Bajaj Chetak and Priya scooters. Prices of these brands of scooters and also some other brands of scooters which were not covered by the Distribution Control have been increased by the manufacturers mainly because of increase in prices of inputs and incidence of duty and levies and not attributable to the lifting of control on distribution.

**Manufacture of Bajaj 150 and Priya etc. scooters by M/s. Bajaj Auto Ltd.**

774. SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of various types of scooters, such as Bajaj 150 and Priya, etc. sold by M/s. Bajaj Auto Ltd. to the persons registered in general and against Government quota, separately, in the country and Delhi/New Delhi in particular immediately preceding one year (monthwise) of decontrol of scooters by Government and the number of scooters sold in the corresponding months thereafter against general list and others, separately;

(b) whether there has been any fall in the number of scooters sold after decontrol; if so, the reasons therefor with reference to their manufacturing capacity; and

(c) what is the total number of persons on general waiting list for Bajaj

150 and Priya scooters and the approximate time to be taken to meet the requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI-MATI ABHA MAITI): (a) M/s. Bajaj Auto Limited, Poona are manufacturing Bajaj-150 and Bajaj Chetak scooters. 'Priya' scooters are being manufactured by M/s. Maharashtra Scooters Limited, Satara, under sub-licensing arrangements with M/s. Bajaj Auto Limited. Bajaj Chetak scooters are being allotted against inward remittances of foreign exchange. The Statutory control on distribution and sale of all makes of scooters, which was last applicable only to Bajaj and Priya makes of scooters, was rescinded on 1st January, 1978. There are, therefore, now no quotas for allotment of scooters at the disposal of Government authorities. Deliveries, however, in 1978 were made against quotas during the period of control. On the basis of the information reported (which is not available month-wise) the data in respect of sales of scooters during the year 1977 and 1978 is given in the statement attached.

(b) Supplies effected in 1978 were less than in 1977, mainly because of disruption in production due to strike in the unit of M/s. Bajaj Auto Limited for about 1½ months.

(c) The total number of orders booked with various dealers in the country for Bajaj-150 and Priya scooters stood at 3.70 lakhs and 1.14 lakhs respectively as on 1st January, 1979. The manufacturing capacity of M/s. Bajaj Auto Limited is being increased. The industry, as a whole, including the public sector organisation—Scooters India Limited—is also being developed so that consumer demand for scooters is met both qualitatively and quantitatively. It is expected that with this development in the industry, imbalanced preferences for a particular brand of scooter would be corrected expeditiously.