

(b) if so, what are the main features of the Articles of Association of the Corporation; and

(c) by when the proposed Corporation is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposal for the setting up of an All India Financial Corporation to meet the credit requirements of small industries in the districts is being examined by the Government in consultation with the concerned departments.

Short supply of H.M.T. watches

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

(a) whether it is a fact that H.M.T. watches are in short supply consequently leading to a situation of 'on price' being charged from buyers;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the short supply and enforce the scheduled price;

(c) whether it is a fact that adequate servicing facilities for H.M.T. watches are not available; and

(d) if so, what measures are being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b) The availability of HMT watches which are preferred because of their quality and performance has increased six times during the last four years because of augmentation of manufacturing facilities by HMT. Government have also sanctioned the further augmentation of production of HMT watches in order to meet the gap between demand and

supply. Sporadic reports have been received by HMT that some watches are being sold by un-authorised dealers at prices which do not conform to the prescribed prices. In order to remove the basis of such complaints, HMT are augmenting their manufacture of watches particularly preferred models and are extending their distribution network.

(c) and (d) HMT have a network of 14 servicing Centres and 33 authorised agencies in different parts of the country where adequate facilities have been developed for after-sales-servicing. Programmes for extending the servicing network are in progress with the objective of establishing a total network of 200 servicing centres in different parts of the country by 1979-80.

Participation of multi-national corporations in the automobile industry

237. SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering offers of participation and credit from seven multi-national corporations for the improvement of the automobile industry in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) No such offer has been received by the Ministry of Industry.

(b) Does not arise.

Manufacture of items reserved for small industries

238. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have put an embargo from the 1st January, 1979 on indus-