

(b) and (c) The allocation of cargo to various ports is done by the importers and exporters on the basis of the distances to and facilities available at various ports and other economic considerations. Some of the public sector agencies which handle large quantities of imports/exports cargo have recently been addressed to plan their imports and exports in consultation with the Ministry of Shipping and Transport so that as far as possible cargo can be handled at the ports smoothly and without delays or bunching of ships.

Under-utilisation of capacity in the private sector industries

1194. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 184 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th August, 1976 and state:

(a) what is the extent of under-utilisation of capacity in the private sector during the current year till the end of November as compared to the corresponding periods in 1975 and 1976;

(b) what are the various concessions given to them till May, 1977;

(c) whether Government have identified the industries whose deliberate under-utilisation of capacity still continues and what are the details thereof till end of November, 1977;

(d) what action Government have taken against those employers who are deliberately cutting down production or are not utilising their full capacity and with what results; and

(e) if no action has been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) A statement showing capacity utilisation during 1975-76, 1976-77 and

April—September, 1977, in about 80 selected industries looked after by the Directorate General of Technical Development is attached. [See Appendix C III, Annexure No. 62] it would be seen that the capacity utilisation has, by and large, shown improvement in a number of major industries such as cement, lead, nitrogenous and phosphating fertilizers, caustic soda, benzene hexachloride (tech), paper and paper board, bicycles, domestic refrigerators, electric bulbs and tubes, wrist watches, razor blades, P.V.C. resins, passenger cars and jeeps etc. However, in some of the industries like aluminium, newsprint, viscose tyre cord, polyester fibre, leather footwear, machine tools, steel wire ropes, commercial vehicles, scooters, motor cycles etc., both production and capacity utilisation have gone down during the period April—September, 1977 as compared to 1976. This is largely due to closure of some of the units for varying durations on account of labour disputes, power shortage/cuts in some states or due to some technical problems faced by some units in the industry.

(b) Government have announced, from time to time, a number of liberalisation to the Industrial Licensing Policy with a view to achieving fuller utilisation of installed capacities of industrial undertakings in scheduled industries.

(c) to (e) Fall in the volume of production is the result of a combination of factors such as shortage of raw materials, labour unrest, obsolescence of machinery etc., resulting in under-utilisation of capacity. It has not been possible to identify any industry where a fall in the volume of production could be attributed to a deliberate under-utilisation of capacity. However, under section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, the Central Government has the power to cause investigations to be made into scheduled industries or industrial undertakings

under certain circumstances, Government has the power to cause investigation to be made if there has been or is likely to be a substantial fall in the volume of production in respect of any article relatable to a scheduled industry for which having regard to the economic conditions prevailing, there is no justification. Government has also the power to cause investigation to be made in respect of any industrial undertaking which is being managed in a manner highly detrimental to the scheduled industry concerned or to public interest. After conducting such investigations, Government has the power to issue directions to the undertakings concerned, as may be appropriate and these directions can relate to regulating the production as well as fixing the standards of production. Government can also take over the management of the undertakings, if considered necessary to do so.

Loss to industries by the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh

1195. DR. V. P. DUTT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimates of the loss caused to the public sector industrial units under the Central Government by the cyclone which hit Andhra Pradesh on the 19th November, 1977; and

(b) the steps taken by the Central Government to help rehabilitate the employees of these industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign exchange Racket regarding purchase of scooters in Delhi

1196. DR. V. P. DUTT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any racket regarding purchase of scooters on forged foreign

exchange documents has recently been unearthed in Delhi;

(b) what is the number of scooters so far purchased on such forged documents;

(c) what is the number of persons arrested in this connection and what action has been taken against them;

(d) what is the number of scooters recovered so far and what are the names of the persons who purchased scooters from this gang; and

(e) what action Government have taken or propose to take against those who purchased scooters from this gang?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the investigations by Delhi Police are in progress, it is not possible at this stage to indicate the number of scooters purchased on such documents.

(c) Seven persons have been arrested so far in pursuance of the action taken under due process of law.

(d) Seven scooters have so far been recovered. Two scooters were purchased by M/s. Amolak Singh Auto Consultant, Hyderabad, three by Shri Y. K. Mohan Rao of Village Boddapare, Tehsil and District Vijaywada and two have been detained at parcel office, New Delhi in the name of S/Shri G. B. Singh and Inder Singh booked from Amritsar.

(e) Investigations are in progress and action already initiated under due process of law.

Overdrafts by NIDC Ltd.

1197. SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Industrial Development Cor-