

nical Development/Development Com. missioner (Small Scale Industries).

(b) In the case of mechanical watches there is an established manufacturing capability in the country. The imports allowed under (a) are only to tide over gaps "between demand and the current level of indigenous production. In the case of digital electronic watches on the other hand, none of the four basic parts needed viz; crystal, battery, display and the large scale integrated circuit module, is made in India at present. Manufacture of digital electronic watches on the basis of such total import of constituent elements can lead to only a packaging and marketing activity, which, once started, will have to be kept going with continuing imports, and has therefore not been approved.

(c) The reports received by the Government recently do not show any increase in smuggling of electronic watches.

Extension of Central Laws to Sikkim

1324. SHRI ANAND'A PATHAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to extend the Workmen's Compensation Act and other similar Central Laws to Sikkim; and

(b) if so, by when such laws are likely to be made available to that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Labour, who are administratively concerned with Central labour laws, are already examining these laws in consultation with the Government of Sikkim with a view to making recommendations in respect of the various enactments (including the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923) the extension of which to the State of Sikkim is

considered to be necessary. After definite proposals are formulated, action will be taken to extend these laws.

Indian industries to compete with multinationals

1325. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public and Private Sector industries are adequately equipped to compete with the multinational Companies which have been permitted to expand their business in the country; and

(b) if not, whether Government have taken any steps to protect these industries from competition with the multinationals?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As the policy of the Government is to permit foreign companies only in priority industries of importance to the national economy and which require sophisticated technology not available in the country, adequate care is taken to ensure that operations of multinational companies in the country do not impede the growth of Indian industries.

Release of Central Assistance to West Bengal

1326. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have released the balance of Rs. 240 lakhs out of the total Central assistance of Rs. 800 lakhs to the West Bengal Government for three years of the Fifth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if not, by when it is likely to be released?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) and (b) The total Central assistance allocated