

ional distributors has been in force for about 15 to 20 years and has been working satisfactorily. Apart from this, the company also at present supplies a limited quantity to certain Co-operative Societies, located in and around their factory premises. TSP is not a controlled commodity and the Government do not control its production, sale etc. under the provisions of any statute, including the Atomic Energy Act. Considering that the present shortage is only due to production constraints, which is expected to ease in the near future, it is not considered necessary to interfere with the distribution system, especially when Indian Rare Earths Limited are not the sole manufacturer of TSP.

Licences to import watches

1185. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued licences for the import of watches and watch-parts; and

(b) if so, what will be its effect on the watch industry in the small scale sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MATTI): (a) and (b) As Indigenous production of wrist watches has not been able to meet the domestic demand, and as a supplement to the stringent anti-smuggling measures taken by Government. Government initiated early last year, a number of supporting measures for augmenting the indigenous availability of wrist watches. Alongside planning creation of adequate indigenous capacity, which will necessarily take some time, it has been considered necessary as a short term measure to allow import of watch movements in semi-knocked down/complete knocked down condition, along with other parts, to the units both in the organised and

small scale sectors to increase availability of wrist watches through proper channels.

These imports have enabled the indigenous unit in the large and small scale sectors to increase their production of watches with indigenous brand names, and have bridged to a large extent the gap between indigenous production and local demand.

Letters written by Shri Balasaheb Deoras to ex-Prime Minister during emergency

1186. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Balasaheb Deoras, Chief of R.S.S., wrote letters to the then Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, during the emergency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri Balasaheb Deoras had highlighted the constructive role of the R.S.S. and had requested the then Prime Minister to reconsider the decision about the imposition of ban on the organisation, which was based on misinformed and wrong prejudices.

Examination by the World Bank Mission of statistics relating to industries in India

1187. SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank Mission in 1971 and 1972 examined the major statistics relating to industries published in India under the Annual Survey of Industries Scheme;

(b) if so, what are the findings and recommendations of the mission for improving the work of collection and compilation of Industrial Statistics; and

(c) which of these recommendations have been accepted by Government?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Recommendations of the Steering Committee on Industrial Statistics

1188. SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of meetings of the Steering Committee on Industrial Statistics held during 1977-78 and upto the 30th June in 1978-79 to review the work relating to the annual survey of industries, index of industrial production and utilisation of industrial capacity;

(b) whether the Steering Committee has made any suggestions for improvement in the method of collection and compilation of the statistics; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) The Steering Committee met once in 1977-78 and upto 30th June 1978-79. The Committee deals with work relating to annual survey of industries and does not review the work relating to index of industrial production and utilisation of industrial capacity.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Government have taken action to give effect to the recommendations made by the Committee from time to time for streamlining the collection and compilation of data on the annual survey of industries.

Production of salt in the country

1189. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of salt produced at the various centres in each State during the years 1975 to 1978, year-wise;

(b) what are the prevailing rates of Salt per quintal in each State;

(c) what are the requirements of salt in each State;

(d) what is the quantity of salt exported to various countries during the period from 1975 to 1978 year-wise;

(e) whether Government have received any complaints regarding non-supply of sufficient number of railway wagons for movement of salt stocks which is affecting its price parity in various States; and

(f) what steps Government have taken up to ensure supply of sufficient number of wagons for movement of salt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) to (d) Statements I, II, III, IV giving state-wise production figures of salt during 1975 to 1978 (upto June), rates of salt per kilogram prevailing in selected centres during 1978 (January-June), annual requirements of the States and quantities of salt exported to various countries during 1975 to 1978 (upto June) are enclosed.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. However, as against the assessed requirements of 64,729 wagons for edible salt during the period from January to June 1978, 66,735 wagons of salt were loaded during that period. Thus, movement of salt has been more than the overall requirements though local or temporary shortage of wagons were experienced, which were taken up with the Railways for quick remedial action.