

with a view to knowing their demand and to organising its production accordingly.

(3) The Deptt. of Heavy Industry reviews regularly, *inter-alia*, the order book position of the company and assists it in securing additional orders from Coal Mining Industry, Steel Plants, Ports, Thermal Power Stations etc.

(4) Vigorous efforts are being made to secure export orders where feasible with the assistance of foreign collaborators of the Company.

Merger of D.A. with basic pay of HAL officers

*806. SHRI L. R. NAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of extending the benefit of adding dearness allowance to the basic pay for calculating gratuity payable to the officers in HAL has been examined; and

(b) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided that Dearness Allowance may be added to the Basic Pay for calculating gratuity payable to HAL officers.

French nationals in Pondicherry

*807. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

SHRI KALP NATH RAI.

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French nationals of Indian origin living in Pondicherry are eligible to cast their votes in the elections in France; and

(b) if so, what is the status of their nationality according to the Indian Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL):

(a) According to information available, persons born in the former French Establishments in India and are French nationals, are eligible to cast their votes in French elections subject to the conditions that:

(i) they are registered in a French Consulate; and

(ii) they are inscribed on an electoral list.

(b) The national status of these persons is governed by the "Treaty of Cession of the French Establishments of Pondicherry, Karikal, Mahe and Yanam" read with the Citizenship (Pondicherry) Order, 1962. These persons are French nationals.

Marketing of goods by the large industrial units and the multinational units

*808. SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large industrial units including multinationals, like the Batas, use their market power to earn huge profits from the sale of goods manufactured by small scale industry to the detriment of the small scale entrepreneurs and the consumers; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to organise marketing of goods produced by the small scale industry for liberating the same from the market power of large business/industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) We have not received any specific complaints against large industrial units, including multinationals like Batas, who purchase leather footwear

from small scale units and sell them through their own marketing outlets. According to M/s. Bata India Ltd., there are over 70 different small scale units who supply them leather footwear, which constitutes only 4.77 per cent of their total marketing operations. According to the company the distribution mark up on bought out leather footwear is the same as that on their own manufactured product. The selling price comprises approximately 67.5 per cent as manufacturing cost and 32.5 per cent as store operation cost, merchandising and distribution cost and occupancy and administration cost. This provides a gross margin of approximately 5 per cent.

(b) The N.S.I.C., the State Small Industries Corporations, some specialised commodity corporations and State Leather Corporations have been set up to promote the development of small scale industries including their sales and marketing.

In March 1976 the Government of India set up Bharat Leather Corporation Limited as an apex body responsible for the development of the leather industry and to create suitable infrastructure for this purpose. One of the objectives of the Corporation is to provide and develop marketing outlets both within the country and abroad for the products of the leather industry. In pursuance of this objective the Corporation has plans to set up Leather Emporia in Metropolitan Cities to market leather and leather products from the small scale and cottage sectors. The first such emporium is likely to be set up in Delhi shortly.

Hiring of D.T.C. buses by public schools

*809. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN MISHRA:
SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Com-

mittee appointed by Government to study the functioning of the Delhi Transport Corporation has suggested termination of its contracts with the public schools; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which the Committee has suggested termination of the contracts with the public schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the reason as stated by the Committee in its report in support of the suggestion is that the D.T.C. has a limited number of buses and contracts with public schools place an unjustified obligation on the Corporation to spare buses for them and the withdrawal of these buses from schools would provide a relief to the problem of local transport.

Law regarding handcuffing of persons by police

*810. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has recently written a letter to the Chief Ministers of States in regard to the handcuffing of persons by the police in the States;

(b) whether it is proposed to amend the relevant law in regard to handcuffing;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL):

(a) A letter is under issue.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.