

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): It is proposed to set up soon a Group of officials and non-officials to prepare a Working Paper for suggesting recommendations on the grant of autonomy to the Akashvani and the Doordarshan.

Device to double the speed of bicycle

*267. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:
SHRIMATI SARASWATI
PRADHAN:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA
SINGH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Delhi University Laboratory Attendant had perfected, some six years ago, a cheap attachment which could double the speed of a bicycle and that the device was recognised by the National Research Development Corporation;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the inventor had offered to donate the patent to Government; and

(c) whether Government propose to utilize the patent for commercial use in bicycles?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Shri Harcharan Singh, Laboratory attendant, Delhi University had submitted an application dated the 27th November, 1975, to the National Research Development Corporation for assistance for obtaining a patent for his device which according to him doubles the speed of a cycle. He was granted financial assistance on 12-12-1975 and the NRDC advised Patent Attorneys to file a Patent and Patent No. 139825 was granted to him by the Patent Office. Subsequently on receipt of an application from Shri Harcharan Singh, the NRDC paid him a sum of Rs. 500/- for making a working model of the attachment. In spite of requests made to him by the

NRDC, Shri Harcharan Singh has not produced any such model for demonstration. It has, therefore, not been possible for the NRDC to verify his claim that the attachment developed by him actually results in doubling the speed of a cycle.

Insofar as Government are aware, no cycle manufacturer has purchased the above patent.

Setting up of Lokvastra units

*268. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up Lokvastra units in the country;

(b) if so, what are the names of the States which have taken keen interest in this regard; and

(c) what are the details regarding the functioning of this scheme and what assistance the Central Government have given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Government has agreed, in principle, to the setting up of 20 Lokvastra Units initially through the agency of Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

(b) Eight States and two Union Territories have shown interest in the scheme. These are States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Orissa, Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana and Union Territories of Tripura and Delhi.

(c) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission has been asked to prepare projects with the maximum investment of Rs. 5 lakhs on each project, the details of which are still awaited. The Government will provide assistance in the shape of interest subsidy on loans raised by these Units from the Banking Institutions.