

to ensure increased production of the common varieties of cultural paper which will have the effect of checking the rise in prices. Exports of writing and printing papers of all sorts have also now been stopped. Improvements in the distribution arrangements to the extent feasible are also being examined particularly to ensure essential supplies to the more sensitive sections of consumers.

### **Recession in Radio industry in the country**

- \*536. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI :  
 SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIA :  
 MISS SAROJ PURUSHOT-  
 TAM KHAPARDE :  
 SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM :  
 SARDAR AMJAD ALI :  
 SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY :  
 SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Radio Industry in the country has not been able to come out of recession since 1970;

(b) whether Government have made any study as to the causes thereof; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to remove the difficulties faced by the industry?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (c) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

### **Statement**

The production of Radio Receivers had increased rapidly during the period 1960 to 1971. During 1972, the production remained at the same level as in 1971. During the current year,

however, the indications are that production would have again increased to about 35 lakhs Radio Receivers as against 30.2 lakh Receivers produced in 1972.

The production of radios is both in the large and the small scale sectors and is completely delicensed. Government have encouraged, on liberal scale, the manufacture of components used in radio sets. Production of low cost radios has been reserved for the small scale sector which is being assisted through State-sponsored Testing and Development Centres being established throughout the country. A State agency for market promotion is being proposed in the 5th Plan period. Excise duty has been exempted on low cost radio (below Rs. 165/-) manufactured in the small scale sector while License fees for radios costing below Rs. 125/- is half of that for costlier radios.

### **Strike by Thumba Employees**

- \*537 SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT :  
 SHRI K. C. PANDA :

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre at Thumba went on strike recently; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of Government to the demands of the employees ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (b) A section of the employees of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre at Thumba mounted an agitation between August 16 and 25, 1973 against (i) the delay in completing the normalisation process and (ii) the reported shifting of various units from Thumba. Some of the issues involved have been sorted out and the other are being looked into.