

Government of Bangladesh on 29th January 1973 to enable the Bangladesh Government to buy 150 buses from India.

(b) The total amount of the credit is Rs. 13,322,000/- which carries an interest of 6% per annum. The principal amount of the loan is repayable in 15 years, including a grace period of 5 years, in equal semi-annual instalments payable on 30th June and 31st December each year commencing from 30th June, 1978.]

†MINIMUM WAGE FOR AGRICULTURAL
LABOURERS

617. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to introduce minimum wage for Agricultural Labourers throughout the country on a uniform basis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G. VENKAT-SWAMY) : (a) and (b) The State Governments are the 'appropriate Governments' under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in respect of the bulk of employment in Agriculture. They have been advised to take steps to secure a reasonable wage for agricultural workers. Conditions being different from place to place, it has to be further examined to what extent uniformity in wage can be achieved throughout the country.

‡BRASS AND BELL METAL INDUSTRY

695. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYA-NARAYANA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the brass and bell metal Industry is on the way to gradual extinction; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

‡SETTING UP OF AN ELECTRIC BULB INDUSTRY

703. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Tools propose to establish an integrated factory to manufacture machines for the electric bulb industry;

(b) if so, the place where the factory will be established;

(c) what other items this factory will manufacture; and

(d) the extent to which this factory will help in saving the foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) to (d) M/s. Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., have a tentative proposal to set up manufacture of lamps and lamp making machinery in their plant at Hyderabad. A detailed project report is awaited from the H. M. T.

†RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK IN
BHARAT ELECTRONICS

747. SHRI G. R. PATIL :

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the research and development work being done in the Bharat Electronics Ltd., is very inadequate;

(b) if so, what measures are proposed to remedy the situation; and

(c) what other professional electronics equipment is proposed to be manufactured to cope with the fast changes taking place in the electronics technology ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The research and development work now being done by Bharat Electronics Ltd. is adequate.

(b) and (c) A statement showing the present progress and the future plans is placed on the Table of the House.

†Transferred from the 9th May, 1973.

‡Transferred from the 10th May, 1973.

STATEMENT

Bharat Electronics Limited have considerably stepped up Research and Development activities during the recent years and the Company has already successfully designed and developed a number of electronic equipment for Defence as well as Civil Customers. Several of these equipment have also gone into production. In regard to low-power communication equipment, Bharat Electronics Ltd has achieved almost complete self-reliance and with one or two exceptions, all such communication equipment presently under production in Bharat Electronics Ltd have been indigenously developed. Development work in regard to HF, VHF and High Power equipment, is in progress while a start has also been made in regard to the development work pertaining to UHF equipment and micro-wave communication equipment. The future development programme of Bharat Electronics Ltd aims at indigenous development of a complete range of HF, VHF and UHF communication equipment using modern techniques. Other areas of future development activities relate to micro-miniaturised X-Band Radar, which will be the heart of many Radar system in the future, desk calculators, and mini computers.

On the components side also, BEL has successfully developed several new types of Electron Tubes, Germanium and Silicon Transistors, capacitors and Crystals, etc. Further development work in the Components Division will relate to new type of Indicator Tubes, TV, and X-Ray Tubes, apart from Switching Transistors and Hybrid Micro-wave Circuits, etc.

2. In order to accelerate the pace of indigenisation Bharat Electronics Ltd, has also planned to take up the development work pertaining to a number of essential materials, e.g. High Purity Alumina, Steatite; Ferrites, Potassium Silicate and Silica Gel, Phosphor, and Silicon, etc by enlisting the help of various laboratories and other developmental agencies. The Company is also maintaining liaison with the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

3. In view of the foregoing the Research and Development work being done in Bharat Electronics Ltd cannot be considered as "very inadequate". The progress and programmes pertaining to the Research and Development activity of BEL are regularly reviewed and the activities are being progressively expanded to meet the new development requirements.

4. An idea of the growing tempo of Research and Development activities in BEL can be readily had from the fact that whereas in 1968 the number of engineers engaged in the development activities at BEL was 22, it had increased to 170 in 1972, i.e., there has been an 8-fold increase in 4 years. The expenditure on R & D work in BEL has increased from Rs. 17.00 lakhs in 1965-66 to Rs. 95.50 lakhs in 1971-72 and the estimate for 1972-73 stands at Rs. 122 lakhs.

5. The Design, Development and production of new equipment in Bharat Electronics Ltd does take into account the fast changing technologies in electronics industry.

तमिल नाडु सरकार द्वारा एल्युमिनियम कम्पनी को अपने अधिकार में लिया जाना

659. डा० भाई महावीर क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या तमिल नाडु सरकार तमिल नाडु में एल्युमिनियम कम्पनी को अपने अधिकार में लेने का विचार रखती है जो इटली के सहयोग में एक संयुक्त उपक्रम है, और

(ख) यदि हा तो इस संयुक्त उपक्रम के लिए निर्धारित की गई शर्तों का ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या भारत सरकार उनका पालन कर रही है ?

[TAKE OVER OF ALUMINIUM COMPANY BY TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT]

659 DR BHAI MAHAVIR Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state

(a) whether Tamil Nadu Government propose to take over Aluminium Company

[Transferred from the 10th May, 1973]

[] English translation