

ISSUE OF LICENCES TO ELECTRIC FURNACE STEEL PLANTS

304. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE; SHRI BANARSI DAS; SHRI C. D. PANDE; SHRI BHAGWAT DAYAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) how many licences have so far been issued for electric furnaces steel plants in the country;

(b) how many of these licences have put up the plants and how many licencees have failed to do so and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government made any study of the economics of these mini-steel plants, and if so, with what result?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA HANSDA) : (a) Twenty five units have so far been granted letters of intent | COB | Industrial licences for manufacture of steel ingots/billets through electric furnace - cum-conventional|continuous casting process.

(b) Out of these, nine units have since set up the plants and commenced production. The remaining parties are taking necessary steps in this direction and are expected to put up the plants during this year or by 1974.

(c) Government have not made any study, as such, on the economics of electric furnace units. However, in the context of existing shortage of steel, setting up of small steel making plants using ferrous scrap as the feed stock, with a comparatively low investment, short gestation period, high yield, has been considered to be viable. This would also appear to be so from the number of parties who have shown interest in setting up such units.

TRADE UNIONS

305. SHRIMATI SITA DEVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Trade Unions in the country recognised by Government; and

(b) the membership of the each union so recognised?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) and (b) There is no legal provision for the recognition of trade unions by the Government of India. However, the number of Central Trade Union Organisations considered for the purpose of giving representation on national tripartite consultative bodies is four, namely, the Indian National Trade Union Congress, the All India Trade Union Congress, the Hind Mazdoor Sabha and the United Trade Union Congress. According to the last general verification of membership as on the 31st December, 1968, conducted by the Organisation of the Chief Labour Commissioner, the verified membership figures of these four Organisations were:—

I.N.T.U.C.	..	13,26,153
A.I.T.U.C.	..	6,34,802
H.M.S.	..	4,63,772
U.T.U.C.	..	1,25,754

General verification as on the 31st December, 1972 is now being undertaken.

WAGES FOR ENGINEERING WORKERS

306. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration any proposal about fresh wage settlement of the engineering workers;

(b) if not, whether any such demands have been made by these workers;

•(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what measures Government propose to adopt before the workers' wage settlement period is over?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) There is no wage settlement on an all India basis; different agreements were evolved in different States largely through the good offices of the State Governments. The Central Government have no proposals for a fresh settlement.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

EXPORT OF ARMS

307. SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KUL KARNI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the prospect of the export of arms and ammunitions to foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The production capacities in our Ordnance factories are tailored essentially to meet the demand of our armed forces. However, after meeting our requirements, military equipment has been supplied to some friendly countries on a commercial basis.

INDIAN FIRMS TAKEN OVER IN GHANA

308. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian firms have been taken over by the Ghana Government there; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) The assets, properties and interests belonging to one Indian owned firm, namely, the Loyalty Group of Companies was taken over by the Ghana Government in December, 1972 on account of alleged illegal and fraudulent transactions. The Companies are: (a) Loyalty Garment Factory (Ghana) Ltd; (b) Garmenco Textile Industries (Ghana) Ltd; (c) Garmenco Knitting Industries (Ghana) Ltd; (d) Loyalty Enterprises; and (e) Garmenco Industries.

(b) The Government are collecting full particulars of the take over including details of assets and liabilities of the firms before taking up the matter with the Government of Ghana.

AFRO-ASIAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

309. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the annual Session of the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee recently held in New Delhi, India's representative pleaded for a fairer and more equitable framework for the utilisation of the resources of the oceans;

(b) if so, the response of the Committee thereto and the decision if any taken in the light of India's plea; and

(c) what other subjects were discussed at the session and the decisions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. At the 14th Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee held in New Delhi from 10 to 18 January, 1973 the Indian representative stated