

'Actual Users' Import Licences have been given to organisations which have repeatedly ignored Government's directives for 'Carrying on business' in India ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

Government is not aware of any case in which 'Actual Users' Import Licence has been given to organisation which has repeatedly ignored Government's directives for 'Carrying on Business' in India.

NEWSPRINT FACTORY IN KERALA

465. SHRI G. GOPINATHAN NAIR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have any proposal under their consideration to set up a newsprint factory in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The project will have a capacity of 10,000 tonnes of newsprint per annum and is estimated to cost about Rs. 30 crore. The project is likely to be located at Velloor in Vaikom Taluk, Kottayam District,

TELEGRAPHIC SERVICES IN THE COUNTRY

466. SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that progress of telegraphic services in the country is very slow ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for improvement in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) No, Sir. Telegraph services in the country have made substantial progress since independence as would be seen from the statistics given below :

No. of Telegraph Offices as on 15-8-47	3,230
No. of Telegraph Offices as on 15-5-72	11,428
Telegraph traffic handled during 48-49	27.17 million messages
Telegraph traffic handled during 70-71	50.00 million messages

(b) Question does not arise.

CURTAILMENT OF RIGHTS OF MINORITIES

467. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent speech made by the Union Minister for Law and Justice about the curtailment of the rights of the Minorities which is against the declared policy of Government ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the Minister for Law and Justice, he did not say in his reported speech that the Government of India were considering any amendment to the Constitution to curb the existing rights of the minorities in the educational sector. In fact there is no such proposal. There are reports that many educational institutions, including those administered by minorities, indulged in undesirable practices in the admission of students, appointment of teachers, payment of their salaries, etc., thus refusing to subject themselves to the normal regulatory discipline imposed by Government in the name of protection given to them by the Constitution. Obviously, no Government can permit such abuses, and the Minister for Law and Justice was hinting at these.

APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES FROM BIHAR

468. SHRI MATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of applications for licences to establish industries in Bihar have been pending with the Government of India for long ;

(b) if so, the number of applications pending at present and the period for which they have been pending ; and the reasons therefor ; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Out of the applications received up to 31st December 1971, for the establishment of new undertakings, only 23 applications are

still pending. Out of these, 2 relate to 1969, 4 to 1970 and 17 to 1971.

(c) Consideration of industrial licence applications necessitates fairly detailed examination of various aspects of the proposals and the disposal of particular applications is often delayed due to various factors. In some of these cases, the applications did not provide all the necessary particulars and some additional information had to be obtained. In certain other cases, policy decisions on the industry as a whole had to be arrived at. It is difficult to indicate, precisely the time by which the pending applications will be disposed of. However, Government are conscious of the need for expeditious disposal of all licence applications and every effort is being made to ensure that, as far as possible, decisions on licence applications are taken within 3 months* of receipt of the applications or the receipt of full information from the applicant parties whichever is later.

REPAIRS IN THE UNITS OF TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION

469. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) The necessity of undertaking simultaneous repairs and modifications in the units of the Tarapur Atomic Power Station which resulted in power crisis in Maharashtra ;

(b) The reasons for which Government could not postpone 'modification of work' based on 'Revised Designs' in respect of Unit 5 till 'Urgent Repairs' of Unit II were completed ; and

(c) The details of long term measures taken by the Commission to avert the power crisis in Maharashtra ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Unit I of the Tarapur Atomic Power Station was shut down on August 17, 1971 for refuelling and inspection/maintenance. During the refuelling the need to rectify the guide tube holding-down arrangements was noticed. This work had to be undertaken without delay. Unit II of the Station which has been in continuous operation since August 1971 had developed some steam leaks. The work involved in attending to the steam leaks could not be done while the unit was in operation. The unit was therefore shut down from 15th February to

25th February 1972. It has been shut down from 23rd March for refuelling, which cannot be postponed any longer.

(c) Every effort is being made to bring back Unit I by around the middle of April. The long term solution would be to build up adequate reserves of power supply and operate all the stations in a grid in an integrated manner.

URGENT REPAIRS OF UNIT II OF TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION

470. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the necessity of taking up the 'urgent repairs' to the Unit II of the Tarapur Atomic Power Station was felt as far back as in the first week of January, 1972 ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in taking up the 'urgent repairs' work, and

(c) the expenditure involved in these repairs as also in the 'modification work' in respect of Unit I ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) It is presumed that the question refers to the maintenance work on Unit II of the Tarapur Atomic Power Station undertaken during February 1972. The steam leaks in Unit II were observed towards the end of January. Though it was considered necessary to shut down the reactor as early as possible to attend to the steam leaks, the work was taken up on February 15th at the request of the Electricity Boards of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

(c) The work of attending to the steam leaks in Unit II was part of normal maintenance work in the station and no extra expenditure was involved.

As regards Unit I, the estimated expenditure on the present improvements to the guide tube holding-down arrangements is Rs. 1.25 lakhs.

STUDY OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY RESOLUTION

471. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under