

STATEMENT

(a) Indigenous know-how has been developed by the Central Electro Chemical Research Institute at Karaikudi for the manufacture of only automotive batteries of rating up to 6 volts and 100 ampere hours ; the commercial viability of this know-how has yet to be established. No indigenous know-how has been as yet developed for the manufacture of automotive batteries of a higher rating and other kinds of storage batteries such as stationary batteries, traction batteries, train lighting cells and submarine batteries. The more important raw materials required in the manufacture of storage batteries, namely, lead, antimony, arsenic and certain special resins are not indigenously available. For these reasons, therefore, it would not be possible to state that India is in a position to manufacture the major range of storage batteries by using indigenous process and indigenous raw materials.

(b) Government is considering a proposal to set up a unit for the manufacture of storage batteries, but the same is not based on use of indigenous know-how or indigenous raw materials.

(c) Does not arise.

CURTAILMENT OF ORDERS FOR PRODUCTION OF WAGONS

*162. SHRI N. K. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS/रेल मन्त्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has curtailed orders for production of wagons by the Railway workshops ; if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(b) whether it is a fact that orders for wagons have been placed by the Railways with private firms for their future requirements ; if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS/रेल मन्त्रालय में उपमन्त्री (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Offers are being sent to private Wagon Builders against 1971-72 Wagon Building Programme. The quantity proposed is 7891.5 wagons in terms of four wheelers.

RECOMMENDATION OF JOINT INDO-BRITISH MISSION

*163. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT/औद्योगिक विकास मन्त्री be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 681 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th June, 1971 and states :

(a) whether the Government of India have since considered the Report of the Joint Indo-British Mission on process plants ; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken thereon ;

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT/औद्योगिक विकास मन्त्री (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY):
(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Government of India and the U. K. organised jointly a Mission of experts from both countries to assess the needs and manufacturing potential for process plants in India. The various recommendations made by the Mission have been considered at three inter-Ministerial meetings held on various dates in 1970 and 1971. In pursuance of decisions taken at these meetings certain Committees were constituted to go in to the specific recommendations in detail. One of the more important recommendations related to the question of establishment of a Raw Materials Bank which is under active consideration of the Ministry of Steel and Mines in consultation with the State Trading Corporation. The Mission had identified certain gaps in respect of certain items of process plant machinery. Government issued a Press note inviting applications from entrepreneurs for creation of capacity in respect of Forged High Pressure Valves, Electrostatic precipitators, Ejectors and Finned tube air coolers. Applications received in response to this Press Note are under consideration.

Feasibility of establishment of a Welding Research Institute is being considered. Steps are also being taken to accommodate certain trainees above foreman level for training abroad under Colombo Plan. Following up the recommendations of the Joint Mission, certain items have been selected for conducting necessary research for developing suitable design know-how indigenously.