

WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Birlas have agreed to hand over the Birla House in New Delhi to Government; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH):

(a) No final agreement has yet been reached in the matter.

(b) This does not arise at present.

CHEMICAL GRADUATES' ENTRY INTO POLYETHYLENE INDUSTRY

142. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the growing unemployment in the country Government propose to start a scheme for enabling the graduates in chemistry to enter the small-scale industry on an increasing scale for conversion of polyethylene raw material into polyethylene products; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH): (a) and (b) Conversion of polyethylene or other resins into end products like film, moulded goods etc. requires specialised technical background and training in plastic engineering and technology. While there is no scheme for graduates in Chemistry to enter small scale industry in the plastic conversion field, they would be eligible for assistance given to small scale entrepreneurs from various agencies like State Government aid, from banks and technical assistance from central small industries organisation.

There is a State Bank of India scheme for financing craftsman and other technically qualified entrepreneurs deciding to set up small scale industries. The assistance given may consist of instalment credit for the purchase of equipment for a period of three to seven years, medium term loan for a period of three to ten years at 9% interest and cash credit and demand loan for working capital. This scheme will cover such projects which require financial assistance of Rupees one lakh or less.

JAPANESE AND FRENCH OFFERS FOR DRILLING OF OIL

143. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the proposals of the two Japanese Groups, Mitsubishi and Marubeni Iida, and a French Group, led by the Institute of French Petroleum about the drilling of oil; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN):

(a) and (b) Preliminary proposals have been received from the French Group led by the Institute of French Petroleum and from Marubeni Iida of Japan. Detailed proposals are awaited from them. Final proposal from Mitsubishi of Japan has been received recently. This is under examination.

SMUGGLING OF GOODS FROM CHINA AND PAKISTAN

144. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value and the nature of the goods smuggled into Assam, Tripura, NEFA and other border districts from China and Pakistan in 1969; and