

Road Transport undeniably has certain inherent advantages compared to rail transport namely door to door service, quicker transit and a smaller unit of operation. Besides, the road operators, unlike the Railways, are not bound by any published tariff and have also a free choice of goods to carry. These factors coupled with the fast development of road transport, and liberal issue of permits, account for the increasing use of road transport.

(b) No, Sir. No goods wagons idled during peak periods. About 2,500 broad gauge and 7,500 metre gauge wagons, however, idled during the slack season of August and September 1969. With the onset of busy season from October onwards, these wagons are being gradually absorbed.

(c) Some idling of wagons during the slack season—July to September—is a regular feature. Trade are requested to make maximum use of the easy wagon availability during the slack period and during the past two slack seasons, coal trade took advantage of the situation and kept up good loading.

PRODUCTION OF PHOTOPILMS

♦325. SHRI Z. A. AHMED : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Photo-films Ltd. has a proposal to produce colour films in India with American collaboration;

(b) if so what are the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the proposal; and

(d) the terms of collaboration agreed upon in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) to (d) The question of establishment of a unit for the manufacture of colour films is under the consideration of Government.

REPORT OF ADVISORY COUNCIL OF INDUSTRIALISTS ON INDUSTRIAL LICENSING POLICY

807. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any report from the Advisory Council

of Industrialists on the report of Industrial Licensing Policy Enquiry Committee;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) to (c) The Central Advisory Council of Industries at its meeting held on the 20th September, 1969 considered the various recommendations made by the Industrial Licensing Policy Inquiry Committee in its report on the working of the Industrial licensing system but it took no decisions, as it is only a deliberative body. The Council is not required to submit a report as such to Government. Various views were expressed by its members who represent different interests. Govt. have taken note of the views expressed and will give their due consideration before taking decisions on the recommendations of the Committee.

EDUCATION FOR BLIND AND DUMB PERSONS

808. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :

SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASHAM : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have provided facilities for imparting education for the blind and the dumb in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard State-wise and achievements year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA) : (a) and (b) Education, including the education of the blind and other categories of handicapped persons is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. It is, therefore, not possible to furnish information with regard to the facilities that have been developed by the various State Governments.

The Government of India have, however, set up a comprehensive National Centre for the Blind at Dehra Dun, which provides education and training to blind children and adults. A comprehensive national centre for the deaf and dumb is being developed at Hyderabad. /

Two units of the Centre, namely, a training centre to provide vocational training to deaf boys and girls and a school for partially deaf children have come into being.

RE-EXPORT OF SURPLUS IMPORTED STAINLESS STEEL

809. SHRI K. SUNDARAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to re-export surplus of Stainless Steel imported from Japan with a view to earn foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) whether it is a fact that recently a West German representative visited Japan and pleaded that since India is not in a position to buy thinner grades of stainless steel, it should be passed on to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL & HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. G. PANT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government have no information about this visit.

DELAY IN GRANT OF LICENCES

810. SHRI K. SUNDARAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to reduce the procedural delays in respect of grant of industrial licences, import licences, licenses for substantial expansion of capacity, and extension of licenses for revaluation purposes; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

(b) The Government have been constantly streamlining the licensing procedures and reviewing the industrial licensing policies with a view to minimise delays

in the grant of industrial licences. The raising of the exemption limit, for the purpose of industrial licensing, to more than Rs. 25 lakhs in terms of fixed assets, delicensing of certain industries and diversification of production upto certain specified limit without an industrial licence are some of the relaxations already effected by the Government in the industrial licensing policy. Similarly, steps have also been taken to streamline the licensing procedures with a view to cutting down delays in the disposal of applications. In order to enable the applicant to know, as early as possible, whether Government would be prepared to consider favourably the proposals put forward by him a system of issuing Letters of Intent giving a commitment on the part of the Govt. to issue an industrial licence, subject to conditions specified therein being fulfilled, has been introduced for some time. Further powers have been delegated to administrative Ministries to dispose of the following types of cases without reference to the Licensing Committee :—

(a) Change of locations within the State supported by the State Government concerned and the technical adviser.

(b) Change of location from one State to another supported by the State Governments concerned and the technical adviser.

(c) Permission for 'carrying on business' provided the request is supported by the State Government and the technical adviser.

(d) Cases of rejection of applications for industrial licences when the technical authorities and the administrative Ministry agree to reject the application.

(e) Applications in respect of items which have been put on the 'rejection list'. These are ordinarily rejected without submission to the Licensing Committee.

(f) Applications for first extension of industrial licences and letters of intent.

Further, detailed instructions have been issued prescribing the time schedules according to which all applications received for industrial licences should be put up to the licensing Committee within a specified period. The meetings of the Licensing Committee and the Capital Goods Committee are also now held more frequently i.e. every fortnight, with a view to ensure speedy disposal of applications. A system has also been re-