

lease orders be increased from 30 days to 45 days.

(2) The quantum of future free sale releases be confined to 50,000 tonnes.

(3) Restrictions on the trade with regard to inter-State movement of free sugar should be relaxed.

(4) The bank margins for sugar trade should be reduced from 50 per cent to 25 per cent.

(5) The licensing system for dealers in free sugar should be done away with. Restrictions on storing of sugar by trade should also be removed.

(6) The lapsed quota of free sugar should be re-allocated and released for free sale. None of the suggestions has been accepted by the Government.

#### RECOGNITION OF TRADE UNIONS AT DULIAJAN AND DIGBOI

\*404. SHRI G. BARBORA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are long standing disputes between the Indian Oil Workers Union, and the Petroleum Mazdoor Union at Duliajan and also the A. O. C. Labour Union and the Petroleum Mazdoor Union at Digboi for their recognition ; and

(b) if so, what arrangements are being made for immediately ascertaining the representative character as well as recognition of the respective trade unions?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKH-LAL HATHI) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The representative character of the unions functioning in the Oil India Ltd. Duliajan and Assam Oil Co. Ltd., Digboi was ascertained and the majority unions recommended to the managements for recognition. While efforts to persuade the management of Assam Oil Co. Ltd. to recognise the

majority union are continuing, in the case of Oil India Ltd. fresh verification of membership of unions has been ordered after taking into account some of the objections raised against the earlier verification.

#### INTRODUCTION OF AUTOMATION

\*405. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has devised any means to see that automation in any establishment is not introduced before it is cleared by them or before they are consulted ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has agreed that in all cases the Ministry of Labour will be consulted before foreign exchange is allowed for import of computers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKH-LAL HATHI) : (a) and (b) Government's policy has been that the introduction of automation should be selective and consistent with the social good, that there should be no consequential retrenchment and that the Model Agreement on Rationalisation evolved at the 15th Session of the Indian Labour Conference should be followed in all such cases. A procedure has also been evolved for screening applications for import of computers. A statement giving details of the procedure is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) In accordance with the screening procedure referred to above, the Ministry of Finance consults the Department of Labour and Employment on new applications for import of computers.

#### STATEMENT

A procedure for the screening of applications for import of computers has been in operation in the Department of Labour and Employment since October, 1966.