

as an industrial concern within the meaning of Section 2(c) of the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948, State Financial Corporations Act, 1951 and the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964 and as such it could approach the Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Finance Corporation and State Financial Corporations for financial assistance for the acquisition of machinery and equipments either for the setting up of a new printing press or for the expansion of an existing press. In view, however, of the constraint of resources position of the financial institutions and the demands made on them by industries commanding a higher priority, it might not be practicable for the financial institutions to provide effective financial assistance to concerns engaged or proposing to engage itself in the printing of books or newspapers etc. Accordingly, the matter has been taken up with the Planning Commission by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for allocating higher priority to newspaper industry for this purpose. The question of including small printing presses in the term 'small scale industrial unit' under Credit Guarantee Scheme is also under consideration.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) The Government consider applications for import of printing machinery on the basis of essentiality of newspapers and availability of foreign exchange. According to the liberalised policy, Government have decided to allow import of printing machinery, including rebuilt machines, from the free currency areas namely U.S.A., U.K. and West European countries, which was not allowed during the three previous licensing periods. Applications for the grant of import licences have been invited by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, by a Public Notice issued recently.

TYRES AND TUBES SHORTAGE

942. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government servants in Delhi are experiencing great difficulty in getting a supplies of tyres and tubes from authorised dealers due to non-availability of these articles in the market; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE OVER BRAHMAPUTRA ETC.

943. SHRI G. BARBORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up any scheme during the Fourth Five Year plan for (i) construction of a Road-cum-Railway bridge over the Brahmaputra at Jogighopa and (ii) extension of broad-gauge line upto Dibrugarh;

(b) whether Government have taken up any scheme for extension of Railways to Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and NEFA;

(c) whether it is a fact that the scheme for developing the Tinsukia Railway Station and yard has been shelved due to shortage of funds; and

(d) if so, by what time the scheme is proposed to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (b) No.

(c) No.

(d) The work of remodelling of Tinsukia yard which also includes resiting of the station building is nearing completion.

944. [Transferred to the 20th August, 1968.]

† NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ON INTERFERENCE BY GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT IN PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

590. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the observations of the Planning Commission about excessive interference of Parliament and Government in the administration of the public sector undertakings and the suggestions for "adequate initiative and operational autonomy" to the Commission have been considered by the National Development Council to whom the matter was referred;

Transferred from the 1st August, 1968.