

THE MINISTER OF STEEL MINES AND METALS (DR. M. CHANNA REDDY) ; (a) to (c) In accordance with the guiding principles laid down by Government for recruitment of staff for the public sector projects, recruitment is made on All-India basis in the case of technical and nontechnical posts of middle level and above. The recruitment is made with merit and qualifications as the principal criteria. Anticipating the recruitments of a large number of engineering personnel when the construction work of Korba and Koyna Projects would be taken in hand. Bharat Aluminium Company requested all State Governments (including Kerala) to furnish particulars of engineering personnel likely to be available for consideration.

PAK BID FOR EAST EUROPEAN MARKETS

957. SHRI SITARAM IAIPURIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that Pakistan is going all out to find a firm foothold in the East European markets for its goods; and

(b) if so, which are the Indian goods facing competition with Pak goods in these countries and to what extent Indian trade is likely to be affected by Pak expansion ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Pakistan, like other developing countries, has been trying various measures to increase exports to East European countries. This fact has been well within the knowledge of the Government of India for the last few years.

(b) The goods in which India is facing competition with Pakistan are jute bags and jute cloth, cotton textiles and leather foot-wear.

There has so far been no serious effect on the marketability of Indian goods; but as we are facing competition from many countries, the trade is constantly under review to take effective steps for increasing our competitiveness.

AIDE MEMOIRE TO U.S.A. ON PROTECTIONIST LEGISLATION

958. SHRI SITARAM IAIPURIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India has sent an *aide memoire* to USA on the protectionist legislation which is now before the American Senate Committee; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the U.S. Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The U.S. Government has not so far replied to the communication.

††-PERSONS APPREHENDED FOR VIOLATION OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955

681. SHRI S. K. D. PALIWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons against whom action was taken by the Central Government up to 31st October, 1967 for violation of the Ordinance issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment in regard to the success achieved in reducing the evil of profiteering during the last one and a half months as a result of this Ordinance; and

(c) if so, what is that assessment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Action has been taken by the Central Bureau of Investigation of the Central Government under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 against four persons up to 31st October, 1967 since promulgation of the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 1967.

(b) and (c) The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 1967 was issued only on 16th September, 1967. It is, therefore, too early yet to make any assessment.

†Transferred from the 1st December, 1967.

‡The original notice of the question was received in Hindi, but it could not be supplied to the Ministry because of unavoidable circumstances.