

† BILL TO PUNISH BLACK-MARKETEERS
AND PROFITEERS

*276. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be
pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to
bring forth a Bill shortly to punish
black-marketeers and profiteers ; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) To
make the penal provisions under the
Essential Commodities Act, 1955 more
stringent and their implementation
more effective, a Bill to amend the
Essential Commodities Act, 1955 has
been introduced in the Lok Sabha on
14th November, 1967 and referred to a
Select Committee on 6th December,
1967.

(b) The broad features of the Bill, in
regard to punishment of offenders, are
; follows :—

(i) Offences under the Act are
proposed to be made cognizable.

(ii) The maximum punishment for
certain offences under the Act is
proposed to be increased from im-
prisonment for 3 years to imprison-
ment for 5 years.

(iii) A minimum punishment of
one month's imprisonment for
second and subsequent offenders has
been proposed. In addition, such
persons shall not be able to carry on
business in the essential commodity,
in respect of which the offence has
been committed, for a period not
less than 6 months, as may be speci-
fied by the court.

(iv) Contravention of orders to
become punishable whether the order
was contravened knowingly, inten-
tionally or otherwise.

(v) The provision for summary
trials under the Act is proposed to be
extended for a period of 2 years,
namely, upto 31st December, 1969.

(vi) A provision has been made for
the confiscation by district authori-
ties of all essential commodities and
not only foodgrains, edible oilseeds

† Transferred from the 1st December,
1967.

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and edible oils, in cases of contraven-
tion of an order under the Act.

RENEWAL OF MANAGING AGENCIES

*394. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will
the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVE-
LOPMENT AND COMPANY
AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases where per-
mission was given/refused for extend-
ing the term of managing agencies
under the Companies Act, 1956 during
the last three months of the current
year ; and

(b) the names of the companies to
whom permission was accorded/
refused ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY
AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN
ALI AHMED) : (a) Ten.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table
of the House. [See Appendix LXII,
Annexure No. 59.]

EXPORT OF MICRO-SLIDES

*395. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPA-
YEN : Will the Minister of COM-
MERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have receiv-
ed proposals for the export of micro-
slides ; and

(b) if so, what is Government's
reaction in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a)
Proposal for exploring export possibili-
ties of micro-slides of biology has been
received from a firm in Poona.

(b) Chemicals and Allied Products
Export Promotion Council, Calcutta,
has been advised to explore possibilities
of the export of this item.

TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMME IN
H.E.L. BHOPAL

*396. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the
Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOP-
MENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
be pleased to state :

(a) whether the training programme for engineers and supervisors has been revived in the Heavy Electricals Limited, Bhopal; and

(b) if so, how many persons are going to be recruited under this training programme?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) The training programme has been partially revived to provide for replacements for the staff turn over during the past few years and to meet the shortages which may occur during the next two years.

(b) 41 Graduate Apprentices and 41 Technical Apprentices.

OFFICERS IN SMALL INDUSTRIES OFFICE

397. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Class I officers and posts of Directors that are available in the office of the Development Commissioner for Small Industries;

(b) whether there are any vacancies; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) 259 posts of Class I officers including 24 posts of Directors.

(b) Yes, 26 including 2 posts of Directors.

(c) 1. Sending officers on deputation outside the organisation.

2. Retirement (including leave preparatory to retirement) of officers.

3. Resignation of officers.

4. Temporary promotions of officers from the lower grade to the higher grade.

UNSOLD WOOL WITH STC

*398. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wool worth over Rs. 1 crore has been lying unsold with the State Trading Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) Attention is invited to the statement laid on the Table of the House on 30th November, 1967 in reply to the Calling Attention Notice by Shri K. Sundaram on the subject.

NEWSPRINT FACTORIES IN PUBLIC SECTOR

399. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 408 in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 1967 and state:

(a) whether the proposal to set up two newsprint factories in the public sector and one in the private sector has since been finalised; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) Not yet, Sir. The proposal is to set up only one newsprint Plant in the Public Sector and one in the Private Sector.

(b) At present it is not possible to indicate the details.

PRICE OF SOFT COKE

400. SHRI YELLA REDDY:

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal industry has raised the price of soft coke from Rs. 35 per ton to Rs. 44 per ton with effect from 1st September, 1967;

(b) whether Government's attention was drawn to the difficulties of the domestic consumers of soft coke due to this arbitrary increase in price; and