

DT-14B(14-20HP) Russian tractors had been received by Government during 1964 and 1965. All these schemes were rejected as Government had proposed to set up a Public Sector factory for manufacture of tractors in this range with Czech collaboration.

OVERSTAFFING OF H.E.L., BHOPAL

1403. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints to the effect that the Heavy Electricals Undertaking in Bhopal is heavily overstaffed; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to rationalise the staff structure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

PRODUCTION, EXPORT AND AUCTION OF DIAMONDS

1404. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN :
SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI :

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

(a) whether the production of diamonds in the Panna Diamond Mines has shown a downward trend in the past causing shortfall in their export;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any proposal to seek foreign assistance for scientific mining of diamonds in Panna, is under Government's consideration;

(d) the other measures being considered to boost up production and export;

(e) when diamonds were last auctioned by Panna Diamond Company; and

(f) the value of diamonds in carats available for auction with the Company at present and the reasons for not auctioning them ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. M. CHANNA REDDY) : (a) and (b) The Panna Diamond Project has not reached the stage

of commercial production. However, diamonds are recovered in the course of prospecting and trial mining operations. Recovery of diamonds has increased from 123 carats in 1960-61 to 2407 carats during 1966-67. During April to November, 1967, 4248 carats have been recovered.

Figures of export of Panna diamonds are not separately available. However, the total value of export of diamonds from India went up from Rs. 243 lakhs in 1963-64 to Rs. 1107 lakhs in 1966-67. During April to September, 1967, Rs. 844 lakhs worth of cut and polished diamonds have been exported.

(c) Messrs. John Taylor & Sons, London were appointed consultants for this Project in 1962. They are advising and assisting the National Mineral Development Corporation in developing the Diamond Mine on modern and scientific lines.

(d) A scheme for developing production from Ramkheria and Majhgawan mines by mechanised mining of deposits has been sanctioned by the Government.

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council has been set up to promote export of all gem and jewellery items including diamonds. The Council provides for sponsoring trade delegations, sales teams, market studies and publicity in foreign countries and participation in exhibitions and show rooms abroad.

(e) The last auction was held in Panna in April, 1967.

(f) As on 30th November, 1967, the unsold stock of diamonds with the National Mineral Development Corporation was 6467 carats valued at Rs. 27 lakhs approximately. The next auction was proposed to be held in Bombay but the State Government of Madhya Pradesh suggested that the auction should be held at Indore. The next auction will be held as soon as the venue of the auction is finalised and the other arrangements are completed.

INDUSTRIAL VENTURES ABROAD BY INDIANS

1405. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the name of Indian entrepreneurs proposing to set up industrial ventures outside India ; and

(b) whether they are being done by Indian entrepreneurs themselves or collaboration with other countries?