

(iii) The difference in excise duty on M. F. and M. G. Paper may be abolished; and

(iv) 'Cotton' and 'Jute' wastes as well as 'Waste Paper' may be included in the category of unconventional raw materials used for the manufacture of paper, which are enjoying concessions in excise duty.

The matter is under the consideration of Government.

CRISIS IN WELDING ELECTRODE INDUSTRY

786. SHRI M. S. OBEROI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to Press reports to the effect that welding electrode industry is facing a serious crisis as the demand for its product has slumped down heavily during the recent past;

(b) if so, whether any factories have closed down; and

(c) what is the Government's assessment of the causes for the crisis in this industry and what measures have been taken by the Government or facilities provided to save the industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) to (c) While no report about any serious crisis in or closure of any welding electrode factory has been received, it is true that the off-take for welding electrodes has not picked up in view of the slump in industries like structurals, railway wagons etc. which use welding electrodes. Necessary assistance has been provided to the industry for boosting up exports. A scheme has been evolved under which manufacturers of welding electrodes would get a relief of about Rs. 60 per ton on the base price of billets and would also

gain by more than Rs. 200 per ton on account of quality etc. This price concession of steel plus 20 per cent. cash assistance on exports is expected to make the export of electrodes competitive in the overseas markets.

IMPORT OF NYLON YARN

787. SHRI M. S. OBEROI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation has recently finalised a scheme for the import of Nylon Yarn;

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme; and

(c) the total volume of foreign exchange involved under this scheme and how it is proposed to be arranged?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A bulk import licence for Rs. 6 crores has been granted to the State Trading Corporation for the import of permissible types and synthetic yarn. The yarn so imported will be distributed to the actual users through various Regional Associations/Co-operative Societies of the manufacturers. The foreign exchange has been arranged against tied credits offered by U.S.A., West Germany, Italy and Japan.

STC ENTRY INTO EXPORT TRADE OF TEA

788. SHRI NIREN GHOSH:
SYED NAUSHER ALI:
SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE:
SHRI ARAVINDAKSHAN
KAIMAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation is consider-

ing a proposal to enter export trade of tea;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) when the State Trading Corporation is likely to enter the export trade of tea?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

FOUNDRY FORGE PLANT AT WARDHA

789. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up Foundry Forge Project at Wardha; and

(b) if so, when the work of this project is expected to start?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) A final decision about this project is yet to be taken.

(b) Does not arise.

भोपाल स्थित हेवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स लिमिटेड में उत्पादन

790. श्री निरंजन वर्मा : क्या औद्योगिक विकास तथा समवाय कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1965-66 और 1966-67 के वर्षों के लिये भोपाल स्थित हेवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स

कल्स लिमिटेड में उत्पादन का कितना लक्ष्य रखा गया था;

(ख) क्या उत्पादन लक्ष्य के अनुरूप हुआ, यदि नहीं, तो इन वर्षों में कितना उत्पादन हुआ; और

(ग) उत्पादन में कमी के क्या कारण हैं ?

†[PRODUCTION AT H.E.L., BHOPAL

790. SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the target of production kept at the Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal for the years 1965-66 and 1966-67;

(b) whether the production was in consonance with the target, if not, what was the production during these years; and

(c) what are the reasons for the shortfall in production?]

औद्योगिक विकास तथा समवाय कार्य मंत्री (श्री फ़ख़रुद्दीन अली अहमद): (क) और (ख) एक विवरण साथ में नत्थी है।

(ग) (1) हेवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स (इण्डिया) लि० द्वारा निर्मित वस्तुएं परम्परागत, जटिल तथा बढ़िया किस्म की होती हैं। प्रतिमानों और अपेक्षित कुशलता को प्राप्त करने में कुछ समय लगता है तथा अभी विभिन्न प्रारम्भिक कठिनाइयां महसूस की जा रही हैं;

(2) सामान और पुर्जों का देश में विकास करने का काम कुछ मंद गति से हो रहा है; और

(3) जिस सामान और पुर्जों के लिये विदेशों को आर्डर दिये गये थे वे समय से नहीं प्राप्त हुए।

†[] English translation.