

(b) whether it was scheduled to be over by the end of the Third Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, what is the cause for the delay; and

(d) when it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) to (d) The Detailed Project Report for setting up a Unit at Palghat for the manufacture of precision instruments was approved in August, 1966. An industrial licence was granted to M/s. Instrumentation Ltd., Kota in this regard in March, 1967. The Civil Engineering Office established at Palghat are carrying out the detailed survey of the land and preliminary works at plant site. The Kerala Government have initiated action for installing water supply connection to the site from Malampuzha Dam. Action is under way to process the finalisation of tender papers for construction of plant building. The recruitment of the first batch of 17 Engineers has been completed and a Project Administrator has been appointed. Production is expected to commence during 1969-70.

COIR BOARD

1008. SHRI NIREN GHOSH;
SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE;
SHRI ARAVINDAKSHAN
KAIMAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have received any representation from the Government of Kerala to the effect that Coir Board should be plac-

ed under the control of the Government of Kerala which is producing 95 per cent. of the Coir Board; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI M. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL POSTS IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS

1009. SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state the total number of scientific and technical posts lying vacant in the various industrial undertakings under his Ministry at present?

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

MANUFACTURE OF BABY FOOD

1010. SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a licence for the manufacture of baby food has been granted to M/s. Hindustan Lever; and

(b) whether there is any Indian firm which is producing Baby Food and marketing their product?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.