

PRODUCTION OF H.M.T. WATCHES

269. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the H.M.T. will resume production of watches to its full capacity; and

(b) whether Government propose to export such watches?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA): (a) In view of the non-availability of adequate foreign exchange for the import of requested components and raw materials, it has not been possible for Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., to produce watches up to the full capacity. This will be possible only if their full requirement of foreign exchange is met.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Company have already made a beginning in the export of watches.

COMMITTEE TO ASSESS PROGRESS OF KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

27th SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a committee has been appointed to assess the progress of Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) if so, what are the village industries that will be considered by this committee; and

(c) the terms of reference of the committee?

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

(b) All the village industries now falling within the purview of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

(c) The Terms of reference of the "Committee are as follows;

(i) To assess the progress made in Khadi and Village industries since the establishment of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board in 1953 and to make recommendations to strengthen and expand the progress of khadi and village industries in the country; and

(ii) To suggest any structural or constitutional changes that may be needed in order to improve co-ordination between the Khadi and Village Industries Commission on the one hand and the State Khadi and Village Industries Boards, Co-operative Societies and other Institutions on the other, having regard to the experience so far gained in the working of the programmes and in the context of the projected programme in the Fourth Plan period.

IMPORT EXPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

271. SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the conclusions arrived at the sessions of the Import Export Advisory Council held on 17th and 18th September, 1966?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): The conclusions arrived in the meeting of the Export-Import Advisory Council held on the 17th and 18th September, 1966 are given in the statement attached.

STATEMENT

(i) The Government's new approach on matters relating to export duties assistance in securing raw materials etc. was endorsed.

(ii) The liberalisation of import policy was commended as a step in the right direction.

(iii) The need for import substitution was emphasised and steps would be taken to accelerate its pace.

(iv) It is not possible to frame an Import Licensing Policy for a longer period than one year, in view of the changing internal requirements of the

country, as also the need to conserve foreign exchange.

(v) The non-priority industries would be given foreign exchange for import of raw materials, components and spares for the value broadly equal to the level of the 1954-65 allocation.

(vi) The question of revision of drawback of import duty would be examined.

(vii) The Government would consider specific proposals from Exporters for providing foreign exchange for travel abroad and for opening showrooms and offices in foreign countries.

(viii) The question of introducing commercial broadcasts to boost exports will be examined.

(ix) It will not be feasible to refund every tax imposed by different authorities on export goods.

(x) A sum of Rs. 25 lakhs would be allocated, during the licensing period 1966-67, to meet the requirements of film industry.

(xi) Licences for the import of Books could be converted for the import of machinery for printing books.

(xii) All textile exports would be brought under statutory Quality Control.

(xiii) The problem of long-term finance to coffee planters will be studied.

(xiv) In view of its ramifications the National Defence Remittance Scheme cannot be decentralised and applications will have to be made at the Headquarters of the I. & E. T. C. Organisation.

AGREEMENT WITH JAPANESE MANUFACTURERS FOR FERTILISERS

272. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of SUPPLY, TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT AND MATERIALS PLANNING be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an

agreement has been signed with the Japanese Manufacturers for the purchase of fertilisers from Japan?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY, TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT AND MATERIALS PLANNING (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH): Urea was purchased in August, 1966 from Japanese Suppliers at competitive rates in response to advertised tender enquiry against free foreign exchange. Apart from the contract for these specific purchases, no separate agreement has been signed with the Japanese manufacturers.

273. [Transferred to the 30th November, 1966.]

CONSTRUCTION OF DELHI UP-AVOIDING RAIL LINE

274. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the Delhi Up-Avoiding Rail Line construction has been completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH): Construction of the "Goods Avoiding Lines between Tughlakabad and Sahibabad including the Second Yamuna Bridge" is almost complete and is expected to be opened for goods traffic shortly. Construction of the "Delhi Avoiding Lines and Connected Traffic Facilities" is expected to be completed by the end of December, 1968.

ANCILLARY UNITS OF THE PROPOSED HEAVY VEHICLES PROJECT, JABALPUR

275. SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: SHRI V. M. CHORDIA: RAJA SHANKAR PRATAP SINGH: SHRI RAM SAHAI: SHRI K. C. BAGHEL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 511 in Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 1966, and