

Kerala and Andhra Pradesh has been completed and the new factory proposed in Madhya Pradesh has been set up. On present estimates, this is likely to be towards the end of the Fourth Plan period. The exact location of the plant has not yet been decided. The initial capacity of this unit is expected to be Rs. 5 crores worth of machine tools a year.

FORWARD MARKETS REGULATION

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a Committee to inquire into the working of the Forward Markets Regulation Act; and

(b) if so, what are its terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference are as follows:

(i) to review the working of the Forward Markets Commission during the last 10 years, to find out the extent to which the Commission has been able to carry out the objectives as embodied in the statement of Objects and Reasons of the Statute;

(ii) to assess the role that the forward markets can play in future in the light of the changed economic conditions in the country;

(iii) to suggest amendments to the existing Act in order to effect improvements;

(iv) to examine and suggest what other functions can be entrusted to the commission.

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH HONGKONG

633. SHRI R. K. BHUWALKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed, between India and Hongkong to increase trade between the two countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

LICENCES FOR MANUFACTURE OF T. V. SETS

634. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : RAJA SHANKAR PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Government has issued licences to Indian firms for the manufacture of television sets in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the firms to whom the licences have been issued;

(c) what would be the capacity of these firms; and

(d) the price at which television set would be made available to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA): (a) Yes, Sir. Letters of Intent (not licences) have been issued to two firms.

(b) The firms are:—

1. M/s J. K. Rayon, Kanpur.

2. M/s. Telerad, Bombay.

(c) 10,000 sets per annum in each case.

(d) Ex-factory price about Rs. 800 (pre-devaluation estimate).

GEMS AND JEWELLERY EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

635. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gems-jewellery export Promotion Council functioning; and

(b) if so, when was it formally inaugurated?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE

(SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and

(b) The Council has been formed but has not been formally inaugurated. It has, however, been functioning since the 27th April, 1966.

APPOINTMENT OF CLOSE RELATIVES OF CHAIRMAN S.T.C. TO HIGH POSITIONS

636. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some relatives of the Chairman, Shri B. P. Patel, of the State Trading Corporation, have been appointed to important positions in the Corporation; and

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made from Mr. Patel on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.