

MANUFACTURE OF COPPER CONDUCTORS

421. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh are setting up a factory for manufacture of copper conductors in Bhopal; and

(b) if so, what is the nature of the Central Government's participation in the venture?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO) : (a) The Government of India have received an application from the Madhya Pradesh State Industries Corporation Ltd., Indore, for the grant of an industrial licence for the setting up of a factory at Bhopal for the manufacture of Paper Covered Copper Strips for a capacity of 2500 tons per annum. The application is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The Central Government have no proposal to participate in the venture.

THERMAL POWER STATION TO BE SET UP IN ANDHRA PRADESH

422. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Dharma Teja has been permitted to set up a 200,000 KW thermal power station at Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Central Government have approved this scheme; and

(c) if so, what is the approximate cost of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) The offer of Dr. Teja has been accepted subject to Government arriving at an agreement with him after detailed negotiations.

(b) The Scheme has been accepted for advance action.

(c) Rs. 14-50 crores approximately.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR VISITS ABROAD BY ENTREPRENEURS

423. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been approached by the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, for relaxing restrictions on release of foreign exchange for visits abroad by entrepreneurs in search of foreign collaboration; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : (a) Neither the Ministry of Finance nor the Reserve Bank of India have been approached in this behalf by the Indian Merchant's Chamber, Bombay.

(b) The question does not arise.

PROFIT EARNED ON ACCOUNT OF MOSCOW EXHIBITION

424. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of INTERNATIONAL TRADE be pleased to state the profit earned by Government on account of the industrial exhibition recently arranged in Moscow?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): The exhibition has evoked considerable interest among Soviet Buying Organizations. It is expected to yield immediate and long term benefits to India in the promotion of her exports not only to the USSR but also to the adjoining East European countries. Contracts worth Rs. 1*26 crores have been signed in new items of merchandise. Further negotiations on the basis of samples displayed are in progress to make a total business of about Rs. twelve to fourteen crores on account of this Exhibition.