

consumption have been reduced to some extent by the increase in Defence demands.

Government propose to implement the industrial development programme to the maximum extent possible despite the emergency. Additional capacity is being licensed in high priority industries including those useful for defence and, within the available foreign exchange resources, special consideration is being given to raw-material needs of these industries.

CLOSURE OF HIRING AGENCIES OF NAHAN FOUNDRY LIMITED

•410. SHRI SHIVA NAND RAMAUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the hiring agencies of cane-crushers that used to earn a major portion of income for Nahar Foundry Limited, have recently been closed and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) what has been the total number of such agencies and how many of them have been closed;

(c) whether the closing of the agencies has affected the production of the cane-crushers and necessitated retrenchment of labour as a consequence thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the stocks in the agencies, which closed down, were transported to Ambala for auction as scrap and if so, how much expenditure on transport was incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Out of a total of 84 agencies, only 34 have been closed, as they were uneconomic.

(c) No complete crushers as such were being produced for supply to these hiring depots for some time past, but were being manufactured for direct sale only. However, manufacture of spare parts covers the re-

quirements of the hiring depots as well. The effect on the manufacture of spare parts, as a result of the closure, has not been significant. All the regular employees of the closed depots have been transferred to the other depots.

(d) No, Sir. A portion of the stock was sent directly to the neighbouring depots. The balance stock was transported to Ambala incurring an expenditure of Rs. 10,000. A few crushers were sold and the serviceable rollers after necessary repairs were sent to the various depots. The unserviceable portion of the stock is being used in the Foundry, after melting and only a very small portion has been sold as scrap.

SETTING UP A GENERATOR AT JABALPUR

•411. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have requested the Government of India for setting up a generator at Jabalpur and if so, what decision has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): Yes, Sir; Madhya Pradesh Government requested that one 12-5 MW Gas turbine plant might be placed at their disposal.

The request was not acceded to.

DEATH OF PATIENTS TRANSFERRED FROM WILLINGDON HOSPITAL TO SAFDARJANG HOSPITAL

•4.12. SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such patients who could not be admitted to the Willingdon Hospital due to non-availability of beds and transferred to the Safdarjang Hospital during the second week of August, 1963 and subsequently died there; and