

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: May I know whether in the light of the views of these two experts Government propose to make any amendments in the Company Law?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Not at present. The present Companies (Amendment) Bill is still in the possession of the House.

SETTING UP OF HEAVY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT PLANT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

*658. { SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI:†
SHRI K. K. SHAH:
SHRI M. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from any private interests for the setting up of a heavy electrical equipment plant in the private sector; and

(b) if so, whether any foreign collaboration is contemplated in the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b). A few firms have evinced interest for the establishment of manufacture of heavy electrical equipment in collaboration with foreign firms.

SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: May I know the proposed capacity and the likely investment in this?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That still is all tentative. As the hon. Member knows, the major components of this are being manufactured in the Heavy Electrical Project at Bhopal, and another in the public sector will be set up with Russian collaboration. At the same time we are simultaneously considering as to what portions and what categories we can allow to be

manufactured in the private sector also.

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVAR-GIYA: May I know whether this is included according to the Industrial Policy Resolution in the public sector.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That is what I mention, that it is included in it. But there is no bar to considering suitable schemes which are not likely to be covered even in the next ten years. And there are such varieties and categories of this equipment that it is worthwhile also to have collaboration in the private sector.

LICENCES FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF SCOOTERS AND AUTO-CYCLES

*659. { SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI:†
SHRI K. K. SHAH:
SHRI M. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether any new licences have recently been given for the manufacture of scooters and auto-cycles, and if so, what is the progress so far made to start their manufacture?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): A licence has recently been issued to only one firm for the manufacture of scooters. Since it was issued on'y in July last, it is premature to state the progress made. They are to establish manufacture by July, 1961.

SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: May I know what the investment and what the capacity of this factory are?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That is an existing factory in Madras called Enfield and Company. They are going to manufacture scooters as part of their motor cycle output. It may be that they may invest Rs. 30 lakhs.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Babubhai Chinai.

SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: Is there any foreign collaboration involved in this?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, Sir.

MANUFACTURE OF POTASSIUM CHLORIDE

*660. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Potassium Chloride is at present manufactured in India; and

(b) what are its commercial uses?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) A small quantity of Potassium Chloride is manufactured as by-product of salt petre refineries.

(b) Potassium Chloride is mainly used in the production of Potassium Salts e.g. Caustic Potash, Potassium Permanganate, Potassium Bichromate, Potassium Chlorate etc. Another important use is as a fertiliser.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether any Potassium Chloride is still being imported?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, Sir, about Rs. 40 to 50 lakhs worth. Sometimes it goes up to Rs. 1 crore or Rs. 1½ crores.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether any efforts are being made to manufacture more Potassium Chloride in the country?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, Sir. That is exactly our approach just now. Even though we do not have the necessary raw materials in large bulk this can be produced as a by-product of salt petre. That is what we are investigating.

DEPARTMENTAL TEST FOR FILLING HIGHER POSTS IN HORTICULTURE DIVISION

*661. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of WORKS,

HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Horticulture Division of the Central Public Works Department holds departmental tests for the filling up of posts in the higher grades; if so, which are those posts;

(b) what are the academic qualifications laid down for the eligibility of candidates to take these tests; and

(c) whether the departmental test is considered equivalent to B.Sc. (Agr.) and M.Sc. (Agr.) for promotion purposes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): (a) No test has been prescribed for filling up higher posts in the Department.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

CANADA-INDIA REACTOR

*662. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's second reactor "Canada-India Reactor" has gone into operation and if so, when;

(b) when India's third reactor "Zer'ina" is likely to go into operation;

(c) whether radio-isotopes are being used for medical purposes in India; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, how many centres in India can at present handle radio-isotopes for medical purposes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes. The Reactor reached criticality on July 10, 1960.

(b) By end of November, 1960.

(c) Yes.