

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

### Supply of Cement under Foreign Exchange

5354. SHRI T. NAGARATNAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale behind introducing and enhancing the supply of cement under foreign exchange quota;

(b) whether the purpose supposed to obtain more and more foreign exchange or to cater the Indian residents abroad coming from all groups of income;

(c) the provisions for those who cannot afford the prescribed limit of amount under the said quota;

(d) whether the existing policy under the foreign exchange quota for supply of cement has proved a failure if not, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government are considering either to revert to the earlier policy or providing further liberal conditions to the weaker sections; if not so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (e). The Scheme of priority allotment of cement against inward remittance of foreign exchange was introduced with a view to attracting foreign exchange remittance in to the country. The Scheme was modified vide press note dated 6th October, 1981 wherein *inter-alia* it was stipulated that allotment of cement under this Scheme will be made only in those cases where quantity required is 500 bags or more with a view to facilitate convenient supply of cement in wagon, loads. Under the earlier Scheme, permit holders of smaller quantities were facing difficulties in obtaining supplies in smaller quantities. Individuals who are not in a position to fulfil the conditions prescribed in the Scheme

of priority allotment of cement against the inward remittance foreign exchange, could obtain their requirements of cement under the normal distribution system from the State Governments. The Scheme was modified increasing the foreign exchange remittance per tonne of cement w.e.f. October 15, 1981 and it is too early to assess the performance of the Scheme under the revised norms.

### Jahangir Vakil Mill, Bhavnagar

5355. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Jahangir Vakil Mill of Bhavnagar (Gujarat) has been closed;

(b) the reasons for its closure;

(c) how much production has been lost due to closure (month-wise since its closure);

(d) when the said mill is likely to be taken over by Government;

(e) how much lay-off, Provident Fund, Gratuity, subsistence allowance has been given to the labour and staff since its closure;

(f) how many labour and staff in various grades have been rendered job-less;

(g) whether it is a fact that nearly 47 labourers, staff or their family members have died due to starvation and half starvation as also nearly 10 labourers and/or their family members have become mad due to jobless condition; and

(h) if so, the compensation given or proposed to be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (h). The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the table of the House.