

million tonnes per annum and an additional capacity of more than 20 million tonnes has been approved, out of which a capacity of about 2 million tonnes is likely to materialise by the end of Fifth Plan. There was an increase of 17 per cent in the production of cement during 1975-76 (17.2 million tonnes) over that of 1974-75 (14.7 million tonnes).

The Government has also decided to engage the services of some consultants to study the existing units and report on the possibilities and extent of increasing productivity, maximising their capacity and improving their efficiency.

Meeting with representatives of shoemakers and cloth merchants

281. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government had several times called the meeting of the representatives of the shoemakers and cloth merchants and had asked them to reduce the prices of their products;

(b) if so, whether the representatives have not so far reduced the prices of their products;

(c) whether Union Government have decided to take action against them to bring the prices of their material to the level of 1973; and

(d) whether the prices of the cloth and shoes are the highest in the market at present, and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) The Union Government held a few meetings with a few leading manufacturers of shoes regarding reduction in the prices of common footwear. However, the Union Government has not held any

meeting with cloth merchants regarding reduction in the prices of textiles.

(b) The three main manufacturers of footwear in the organised sector have reduced the prices of selected brands of common footwear.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

Setting up of a Committee for Implementation of Administrative Reforms

282. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a committee to ensure speedy implementation of the administrative reforms;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Power Shortage

283. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister to ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether power supply in the country has worsened during the current year and in some States it was acute;

(b) if so, main reasons therefor;

(c) whether the power shortage was more this year in comparison to last year;

(d) whether the Union Government have taken measures to see that power shortage does not continue for long at least in industrial areas; and