

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Industry based on Phosphate in Madhya Pradesh

4387. SHRI NANDLAL CHOU-DHARY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for setting up a factory based on phosphate in Madhya Pradesh in the public sector; and

(b) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Exploration of oil in Tamil Nadu

4388. SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any intimation from Tamil Nadu Government regarding gas struck in a village near Eral town in the newly formed Chidambaranar district of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for exploitation of gas from this new found region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ONGC has commenced investigations.

Financial assistance for expansion of sugarcane Ayakutt in Andhra Pradesh

4389. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the representation of sugar mills from Andhra Pradesh requesting for financial assistance for expansion of sugar cane Ayakutt and for development of sugar cane in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the decision thereon;

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to provide financial assistance on long term basis for sugar cane industry in Andhra Pradesh from the "Sugar Cess Fund" and release of loan to sugar cane ryots on subsidy basis; and

(d) if so, action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) The Sugar Undertakings are eligible for loans from the Sugar Development Fund for Development of Sugarcane in their respective areas, on Soft Terms, mainly for the following purposes :

- (i) setting up of heat treatment plants;
- (ii) rearing of nurseries;
- (iii) pest control measures;
- (iv) incentives to cultivators to switch over to improved varieties of sugarcane; and
- (v) irrigation schemes.

10 applications received from Sugar Undertakings in Andhra Pradesh through the State Government for loans from the fund for Sugarcane Development were examined by the Screening Committee on 22.10.1986 and further supporting data have been called which are still awaited. 17 other applications received during October/November, 86 were also examined and the shortcomings have been pointed out to the applicant sugar undertaking. These applications will be placed before the Screening Committee on receipt of requisite information.

Demand for rise in price of levy cement

4390. SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether cement industry is demanding rise in levy prices of cement; if so, the details thereof and decision taken;

(b) the per tonne cost of production of cement in India and other advanced cement producing countries;

(c) the CIF value of imported cement and the sale price of levy as well free sale cement produced in India;

(d) the policy of Government with regard to imports, distribution and pricing of cement; and

(e) whether this policy is applied to all the varieties of cement as defined in Cement Control Order, 1967 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from the Cement Manufacturers' Association seeking increase in the retention price of levy cement by Rs. 36.37 per tonne till January '86, and again by Rs. 11.18 per tonne in September, 86. The increase sought has been on account of cost escalation in power tariff, price of coal, movement of coal by railways, increase in wages etc. No decision has been taken by Government so far in this regard.

(b) As per the assessment made by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices in December, 1985, the direct cost of production of naked cement excluding depreciation, interest on loans and (return on capital) on normative basis worked out to approximately Rs. 310 per tonne. Information in other advanced cement producing countries is not available in-as-much as cost of production of cement is a function of various factors including the scale of operation and the cost of various inputs like raw material, fuel and power. Comparison of international cost and prices will be relevant only if such factors operating in Indian plants are similar to those prevailing abroad.

(c) The information is given in the statement-I below.

(d) Information is given in the statement-II below.

(e) The policy of Government applied to all varieties of cement as defined in Cement Control Order, 1967.

Statement-I

CIF value of imported cement

In recent months, no contract has been entered into for import of cement in the country. As such, current c.i.f. value of imported cement is not available.

Levy Cement

The sale price of levy cement in respect of Ordinary Portland Cement and Pozzolana Portland Cement is Rs. 854 per tonne and Rs. 839 per tonne respectively, which is inclusive of excise duty and packing charges, but exclusive of central sale tax, local sale and other local levies, tax which vary from place to place.

Free Sale Cement

There is no price control on non-levy cement. Actual market price fluctuates from place to place and on day to day basis. The Cement Manufacturers Association have, however, fixed on upper ceiling for free sale cement as under :

Kerala, Mharashtra,	Rs. 69 per bag.
Jammu & Kashmir,	
Assam and North	
Eastern States.	
Other States	Rs. 64 per bag.

The above prices are inclusive of dealers' margin, central sale tax and freight upto 20 kms. from the last rail head of the destination but are exclusive of local sales tax and other local levies.

Statement-II

Import of Cement

Under the current import policy, import of cement including clinker but excluding oil well cement required by ONGC and Oil India Limited, will be made by the State Trading Corporation of India under OGL, on the basis of foreign exchange released by

the Government in its favour. The import, distribution and pricing will be made by the STC, as per the connected policy of the Government in the Ministry of Industry.

In view of the improved availability of cement in the country, Government, at present, has no plan to import cement.

Distribution and Pricing of Cement

After the introduction of the scheme of partial decontrol of cement with effect from 28.2.82, there are two categories of cement viz. levy cement and non levy cement available to the consumers. While levy cement is subject to pricing and distribution control, non-levy cement is free from such control. The procedures of cement have to give a part of their production for sale as levy cement.

[*Translation*]

Income of South Eastern Coalfields Limited

4391. DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total income of South Eastern Coalfields Limited in 1985-86 after locating its head office of Bilaspur;

(b) the total number of persons provided with employment after setting up of the new company there; and

(c) the number of local people among them and the posts on which they have been appointed ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The South Eastern Coalfields Limited, a new subsidiary of Coal India Limited, was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 with effect from 28.11.1985. For accounting purposes, the Company started functioning with effect from 1.4.1986. The accounts in respect of period prior to 1.4.1986 were merged with the accounts of companies i.e. Western Coalfields Limited and Central Coalfields Limited, out of which this company has been carved.

(b) and (c). 1236 persons were provided with employment in South Eastern Coalfields Limited from 1.4.1986 to 30.10.1986. Out of them, 1134 were local persons who were appointed as monthly rated workers, daily rated, piece rated and badly/casuals etc.

[*English*]

Commissioning of Automatic Telephone exchange at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu

4392. SHRI S. SINGARAVADIVEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Automatic Telephone Exchange at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu could not be commissioned within the target period;

(b) whether there was inordinate delay in the completion of the construction of the building;

(c) whether the delay was caused because of the sinking of a portion of the building; and

(d) whether Government have made any enquiry and taken any action against anybody for this lapse ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Revised target for commissioning of this exchange was January 1987 but this has been already commissioned on 12.10.86, ahead of target date.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The building has inspected by the Chief Engineer (Civil), Madras and he was reported that the sinking was due to flooding of the site on account of heavy rains. The building is completed and the exchange is working now. As such no action against anyone was taken.

Industrial proposals from NRI investors in Kerala

4393. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :