

(b) The village industry programme has not picked up in the State to the desired extent due to lack of technical personnel, weakness of institutional infrastructure and difficult conditions existing in backward areas.

(c) The State Government has been requested to accelerate the village industries programme in the State. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission also reviews these activities from time to time.

Setting up of Biogas Plants with French Aid

2283. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a French team of experts visited India with a project report for a massive bio-gas plant which will be most modern in terms of sewage handling facilities;

(b) if so, whether India has accepted the project report of the experts ;

(c) if so, the time by which final decision in regard to setting up of the bio-gas plant with French aid is likely to be set up ; and

(d) how many such plants are proposed to be set up and the total expenditure involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir. This related to Varanasi only.

(b) and (c) The project report is under examination.

(d) It is proposed to set up biogas plants linked with sewage treatment in cities included under the Ganga Action Plan. The size and design of biogas plant will differ from city to city and depend on local conditions.

[*Translation*]

Reduction in Cement Prices

2284. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision had been taken to reduce cement prices in Delhi from October ;

(b) if so, the amount by which the price per bag had been reduced ;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the prices of cement in other parts of the country also ;

(d) if so, by what time and by what amount ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.

ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) There are two categories of cement viz., levy cement and non-levy cement, available to the consumers. The non-levy cement is free from price and distribution control. There is no proposal to reduce the price of levy cement in the country.

The retail price of levy cement is revised at the beginning of each quarter by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations on account of revision of rate of packing charges for packing cement. The packing charges for the quarter October-December 1985 were fixed at Rs. 128.12 per MT against the packing charges of Rs. 143.29 per MT during the quarter July-September 1985.

Delhi Administration has reported that the price of cement has been reduced by Rs. 0.79 per bag with effect from 1st Oct., 1985 in view of the reduction in charges for packing of cement for the period from 1.10.1985 to 31.12.1985.

Functioning of Telephones in District Ballia U. P.

2285. SHRI JAGANNATH CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that telephones in Sikandarpur, Napanagar, Raniganj Bazar and Ballia city in district Ballia, Uttar Pradesh generally remain dead ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government to remove this defect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The telephone exchanges in District Ballia are generally working satisfactory. However, every efforts are being made to improve further the functioning of telephone exchanges in district Ballia by monitoring at various levels and taking necessary actions in the matter.

[English]

Interest Holiday Loan Concession to Heavy Industry Units

2286. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether in respect of the different units of Heavy Industry, any interest holiday for loans owed to Government, has been allowed ;

(b) if so, the amount of interest foregone by Government in respect of each such units, year-wise from 1980 to 1985 ;

(c) whether Government have converted some loans owed by such units into equity ; and

(d) if so, the figures of such conversion and the interest which would have otherwise accrued to Government between 1980 to 1985 year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortfall in Achieving Targets in Public Sector Enterprises

2287. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any year-wise targets were formulated for the public sector enterprises ;

(b) if so, the details of the targets and the achievements since the year of formulation till date ; and

(c) in cases where there have been shortfalls in achieving the targets, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.

ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The year-wise targets for the public sector enterprises are formulated by the public enterprises themselves in consultation with their respective administrative Ministries/Departments. These targets are generally indicated both in financial as well as in physical terms on yearly basis at the beginning of every year. The performance of the public enterprises is being reviewed thereafter periodically in terms of the assigned targets by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments. Quarterly Performance Review Meetings are also being held under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of the concerned Ministry/Department to review the performance. Remedial steps that are considered necessary to improve the performance and reduce the losses are also taken on the basis of the outcome of such review meetings.

The Deptt. of Public Enterprises brings out "Public Enterprises Survey" every year wherein performance details of each public sector enterprise are analysed and furnished. This public Enterprises Survey is tabled in both the Houses of Parliament annually since 1960-61.

(c) There are various reasons which contribute to the shortfall in achieving the targets. The major reasons are : (a) power shortage (b) recessionary conditions in some industries (c) uneconomic prices especially in the case of commodities under administered prices such as coal, fertilizer etc., and (d) labour unrest.