

(b) the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The Cement Industry has drawn up a comprehensive programme of modernisation which is being vigorously implemented. The programme includes conversion of manufacturing process, energy conservation measures, progressive adoption of latest technology such as pre-heater and pre-calcinators, installation of pollution control devices, setting up of captive power units, modernisation of quarry operations, etc. An amount of Rs. 402.45 crores on modernisation and Rs. 333.16 on expansion schemes had actually been incurred by the industry upto March, 1985. As regards the assistance from the World Bank, it may be mentioned that a loan of \$ 200 million have been negotiated with the Bank for cement industry. Out of this amount \$ 165 million is intended for financing six specified cement plants for the purpose of conversion of wet process to dry process and the balance amount will be for financing smaller scale modernisations, rehabilitations, etc. at other existing plants. The entire project is likely to be completed during the 7th Plan.

[*Translation*]

Shortage of staff in departments of posts and telecommunications

3372. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases regarding creation of posts in the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications and Department of Posts) are lying pending with the Ministry of Finance resulting in acute shortage of staff to carry out important work in both the Departments ;

(b) if so, the action being taken by his Ministry ;

(c) whether the representatives of some of the employees Union were informed that nothing was required on the part of Finance Ministry and when they met the Minister of Communications they were told that the Ministry of Finance had imposed a ban ; and

(d) if so, the factual position in this regard and the reasons for not according sanction for recruitment of adequate staff to carry out official work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No Sir, Posts required for installation of new projects under plan expenditure are being sanctioned under relaxation of ban orders.

(b) to (d). There is a general ban on creation of posts. In exceptional cases like projects, where there is urgency, the Communications Ministry is clearing proposals for sending to Ministry of Finance for approval.

[*English*]

Supply of Iodized salt to endemic districts

3373. SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the arrangement for the supply of iodized salt to endemic districts and its distribution to the public ; and

(b) the quantities supplied or to be supplied to each during 1985-86 ?

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

(a) There is free trade of iodised salt ; however, most of the State Governments, nominate their traders for lifting iodised salt from manufacturing centres. Iodised salt is sold at the rates fixed by the State Government Authority through private or public distribution system. Iodised salt is given preference over common salt for movement by rail. Manufacturing capacity of iodised salt has been stepped up as a part of the policy of universal iodisation of salt to cover the entire population to combat goitre and other iodine deficiency disorders. The capacity of all Iodisation Units commissioned upto 31.12.1985 is 12.7 lakh tonnes per annum against the requirements of 3.5 lakh tonnes for hyper endemic areas.

(b) Quantities of iodised salt supplied to various States/Union Territories during 1985 are as follows :

	<i>(in '000 tonnes)</i>	
	<i>Annual quota fixed</i>	<i>Supplied</i>
1. Manipur	12.7	6.0
2. Nagaland	6.1	12.1
3. Arunachal Pradesh	5.3	4.6
4. West Bengal (5 District)	59.8	32.2
5. Sikkim	2.6	3.2
6. Jammu & Kashmir	37.7	5.3
7. Himachal Pradesh	26.7	4.2
8. Punjab (3 Districts)	24.0	3.1
9. Haryana (1 Distt.)	9.7	4.0
10. Chandigarh	3.5	1.5
11. Uttar Pradesh (9 Districts)	55.8	28.1
12. Bihar (1 District)	34.4	29.8
13. Maharashtra (1 District)	9.0	8.7
14. Madhya Pradesh (4 Districts)	41.7	9.2
15. Gujarat (1 District)	8.4	3.6
16. Mizoram	4.0	3.7
17. Assam	...	45.4
18. Andhra Pradesh	...	0.1
19. Delhi	...	17.5
20. Rajasthan	...	0.1
21. Tamil Nadu	...	0.1

Setting up of Super Thermal Power Project at Talcher

3374. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently taken decision to set up a Super Thermal Power project at Talcher during the Seventh Plan ;

(b) if so, the time by which that Super Thermal Power Plant is expected to be commissioned ;

(c) the estimated cost of that project ; and

(d) the allocation made for implementing the above proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). The Central Electricity Authority have techno-economically cleared the proposal in respect of the Talcher Super Thermal Power Project Stage-I (2 × 500 MW). The latest estimated cost for power station and facilities is Rs. 1068.34 crores. While an allocation of Rs. 10 crores has been made for the project in the Seventh Plan, investment decision would depend on necessary inputs, including financial resources, being tied-up.

A 500 MW unit normally takes about five years for commissioning, after placement of orders for main plant equipment.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I want to draw your attention to a very serious problem.

MR. SPEAKER : What is the problem?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : There is a very serious situation. Six warships of the United States Seventh Fleet have anchored off Karachi...

MR. SPEAKER : That cannot be a matter for adjournment motion. Foreign policy is going to be discussed on the floor of the House.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This is very urgent, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : You will have a full discussion. I am allowing you eight hours. We shall see to it. If you are not satisfied with that, I will allow that also. I do not mind allowing that.

I am amenable to your suggestion. do not mind. No problem.