

(b) At present there are no proposals for opening of post offices in Malappuram district. However, it is possible that some of the extra-departmental post offices in Pon-nani Constituency are upgraded as departmental post offices as and when the ban on creation of posts is lifted.

Decontrol of Cement

235. SHRI H. B. PATIL:
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Cement Manufacturers Association for complete decontrol of cement in order to improve the health of cement industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the present price of levy and non-levy cement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Cement Manufacturers' Association have made a representation, seeking either complete decontrol of cement or institution of a comprehensive cost inquiry to review the cost of production of all cement units, so as to fix a reasonable remunerative retention price for levy cement.

(b) The request has been made on the following grounds:—

(i) Sharp increase in the cost of production of cement due to:—

(a) heavy investment on installation of captive power sets and generation of power;

(b) investment of pollution con-

trol equipments leading to increased consumption of electricity;

(c) Increase in the Mineral Right Tax by the State Governments;

(d) deterioration in the quality of coal in terms of calorific value and also higher freight due to increased road movements;

(e) steep increases in cost of stores and spares;

(f) Imposition/increase of non-recoverable sales tax and turnover tax; and

(g) general increase in overhead/administrative cost.

(ii) Escalations allowed in the retention price of levy cement by the Government being less than the increase in cost

(iii) The commissioning of a large number of new units has resulted in substantial increase in availability of cement in the market, which has considerably reduced the price of non-levy cement. This has further added to the losses of old units

(c) As regards levy cement, there is a uniform F.O.R. (Sale) price applicable for the entire country, to which the elements of excise duty and packing charges (fixed on quarterly basis) are also added. The present F.O.R. (Sale) price of levy cement is Rs. 532/- per tonne and Rs. 517/- per tonne (excluding excise duty and packing charges) in respect of ordinary portland cement/slag cement and pozzolana portland cement respectively. However, actual retail prices at different places differ depending on the rate of local sales tax and other local levies.

Non-levy cement is free from price and distribution control. The retail price for non-levy cement varies from area to area. The Cement Manufacturers' Association have, however, fixed the upper ceiling for

non-levy cement as under:—

Kerala, Maharashtra
Jammu & Kashmir and . . .Rs. 69/-per bag
North Eastern region

Other States/UnionRs. 64/-per bag
Territories

The above prices are exclusive of local sales tax and other levies.

According to the latest report received from the Regional Development Commissioners, excluding the extreme variations, the retail price generally varies between Rs. 68/- to Rs. 74/- per bag at major consumption centres.

[*Translation*]

Electrification of villages in Uttar Pradesh

236. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified all over the country under the Rural Electrification Scheme;

(b) the number of villages electrified in Hardoi and Barabanki Districts in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the reasons for not completing the sanctioned electrification in village Barauli, Thana Tadiyawan and Village Dhakeiyan, Thana Pihani in Hardoi district so far together with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) Till the end of May, 1987, 4.13 lakhs villages in the country have been electrified.

(b) As on 31.3.1987, a total of 816 and 817 villages were electrified in the districts of Hardoi and Barabanki respectively.

(c) Village Barauli in Block Tadiwyan is programmed for electrification in 1987-88 under Rural Electrification scheme financed by Rural Electrification Corporation. Village Dhakeiyan is not in Block Pihani. However, there is another village named Dhakia in adjoining block of Shahbad which is not covered under REC scheme. This will be electrified by the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board under normal State programme.

[*English*]

Assets of large industrial houses

238. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the total assets, profit and turn-over of each of the 20 largest industrial houses as in 1970, 1975, 1980, 1984, 1985 and 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): A Statement showing assets, profit before tax and turnover for the accounting periods ended during 1975, 1980, 1984 and 1985 of companies registered under section 26 of the MRTP Act and belonging to the 20 largest industrial houses ranked according to their assets in 1985 is given below.

The desired statistics for the year 1970 are not available with the Department of Company Affairs.

The information for the year 1986 is not available as the balance sheets of all MRTP Companies for the financial year ending in 1986 are not yet available.