

capacity arising out of modernisation/replacement/renovation of plant and machinery etc. Time limits have been prescribed for various clearances/approvals by Licensing Committee, Project Approval Board, Capital Goods Committee, Foreign Investment Board etc. Powers have been delegated to Administrative Ministries.

During 1987-88 a special programme of technological upgradation for selected capital goods industries has been launched. These include electrical machinery, power generation equipment, ferrous castings and steel forgings, machine tools and industrial machinery.

Non-availability of essential Commodities in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3626. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the essential commodities edible oils are not available in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details of supplies made during the past three years; and

(c) the action Government contemplate to ensure the supply of essential commodities in the Islands ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) No complaints have been received from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration since March 1987 regarding shortages in the availability of essential commodities.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shortage of LPG Cylinders in West Bengal

3627. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been complaints from LPG dealers in West Bengal regarding shortage of LPG cylinders and delay in supply of cylinders to dealers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and action taken thereon;

(c) whether Government have made any assessment of the time taken to replace LPG cylinder of a consumer by dealers in four major metropolitan cities;

(d) if so, the average time taken in each metropolitan city for the last one year and reasons for the difference in the time taken to replace cylinders; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Representations have been received from the LPG distributors in West Bengal regarding shortage in LPG refills supply;

(b) Backlogs in supply of LPG refills developed in several parts of the country recently due to reasons such as inadequate availability of the bulk product, movement problems, disruption of communication facilities because of the recent floods, etc. With the measures already taken to ease these constraints, it is expected that the situation will improve in the coming months;

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, the situation is being closely monitored by the Oil Industry and immediate action is taken wherever necessary to minimise the backlog and to ensure timely supply of refills to the consumers as far as possible.

Issue of First Licence to a Fertiliser Factory to manufacture Cement

3628. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether this factory in Rourkela (Orissa) was allowed to discontinue the production of fertiliser for which the factory had obtained licence and loans from the Orissa State Financial Corporation which was reimbursed by the Industrial Development Bank of India;

(b) whether this factory has been given a fresh licence to manufacture cement instead

of fertiliser which is a very essential requirement for agricultural needs;

(c) if so, under what circumstances the original licence was removed and a fresh licence was issued for manufacturing cement; and

(d) whether the said cement factory is now being transferred to another company by its principal entrepreneur and whether the IDBI and the Orissa State Financial Corporation have given their initial consent for such a transfer ?

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

(a) to (d) Particulars of the fertilizer factory have been converted into a cement factory have not been indicated in the Question. However, a company, namely, Saraf Agencies Ltd. informed the Ministry in September, 1985 that in 1982 they had taken over a sick unit of M/s. Orissa Fertiliser and Chemicals Ltd. located in Sundergarh and that they had converted the same into a cement grinding unit. They had been grinding cement from the clinker procured from the factory of M/s. Orissa Cements Ltd. Rajgangpur. As, however, M/s. Orissa Cements has discontinued supplying clinker to them their grinding unit had stopped since July, 1985. In view of the difficulty in obtaining clinker from outside, the company applied to the D.G.T.D. in June, 1986 for the grant of Registration Certificate for setting up a mini cement unit with a capacity of 100 tonnes per day (33,000 tonnes per annum) and they were granted the certificate on 4th Sept, 1986.

Drilling Water in Drought Affected areas by ONGC

3629. D. P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ONGC has offered its services for drilling water in drought affected areas ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether such an offer is practical in its implementation ;

(d) the number of drilling rigs available in Gujarat for this purpose ; and

(e) when the work is likely to commence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTI) : (a) to (e) ONGC received a request from the Collector of Kachchh, Gujarat for allowing them to use the Suthari well with necessary pumping machinery for potable water. In the opinion of ONGC, water of the well was not fit for human consumption due to high salt contents. Accordingly, ONGC sent a suitable reply to the Collector of Kachchh, while offering to provide any assistance which the State Govt. may need to mitigate the sufferings of the drought affected population. However, no further request has been received from the State Government.

[*Translation*]

Payment of Arrears of Interim Relief to Officers of Heavy Engineering Corporation

3630. SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the arrears of the interim relief has been paid to the officers of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the said amount will be paid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Due to continuing difficult liquidity position of the Company, the arrears of ad-hot relief from 1.1.1986 to 31.7. 1987 have not been paid to the officers of H.E.C. Payment of arrears will depend on availability of funds.