

Cracker complex at Visakhapatnam submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation stands; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) and (b). M/s. Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. has submitted a Report for setting up a petrochemical complex at Visakhapatnam. A view on various techno-economic aspects such as product pattern, financial outlay, etc. is yet to be taken.

Paper Mills in Maharashtra

5847. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra has the second largest number of paper mills in the country;

(b) if so, how much paper is produced in these mills from bagasse as raw material and how much of pulp is imported and how much procured from internal sources;

(c) what is the foreign exchange outgo for imports and the productivity of these mills as compared to all India average; and

(d) whether efforts have been made to increase the use of bagasse much of which is now being used as fuel?

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

(b) and (c). The production of paper based on bagasse as the main raw material in the State of Maharashtra during 1987 is

estimated at 56,000 tonnes. According to the import policy (1985-88), the import of paper grade pulp including bagasse pulp is permitted under Open General Licence. Hence, information about the quantity of bagasse pulp imported and the foreign exchange upto involved thereon is not available. Considering the price of bagasse pulp, the quantity imported would be negligible. No separate productivity parametres are maintained for bagasse based paper mills in the country by the Ministry of Industry.

(d) Government have extended various reliefs and concessions for use of bagasse as a raw material in the paper industry. These include complete excise exemption for paper containing not less than 75% by weight of pulp made from bagasse and also delicensing of the manufacture of writing, printing and wrapping paper from agricultural residues, wastes and bagasse.

Special Conductors to Check Theft of Power Lines

5848. SHRI S.B.SIDNAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to alarming situation arising out of the rising incidence of theft of power lines, the Rural Electrification Corporation has introduced special type of conductors to combat this menace;

(b) if so, whether these type of conductors will be used by all the State Governments; and

(c) if so, to what extent this has checked the power theft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) The Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been taking steps in promotion the use of all aluminium alloy