

(f) the further action being contemplated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Linking of Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station with Nigahi Coal Mines

2173. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foundation stone for Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station was laid in 1982;

(b) whether the Vindhyachal Power Station is linked to Northern Coalfields 'Nigahi' mines;

(c) whether the Stage-I of the project is expected to be ready by the end of 1989 whereas 'Nigahi' coal mines will not be ready till 1991; and

(d) if so, the estimated escalation cost of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project Stage-I (6 × 210 MW) is expected to be completed, progressively, by the end of 1989-90. On receipt of environmental clearance, the Nigahi coal mine project has been sanctioned for execution and is expected to start production by 1990-91. In the meanwhile, alternate arrangements for supply of coal to the Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station have been finalised.

[*Translation*]

Import of Mineral Oil from USSR

2174 SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to procure mineral oil from USSR during the current year;

(b) if so, the quantity of mineral oil for which agreement has been signed between the two countries, the likely cost thereof and the terms of payment etc. laid down therefor;

(c) the time by which this consignment will reach India and the broad details regarding its distribution; and

(d) whether Government held discussions with other countries also before signing the agreement with USSR; if so, the broad details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) and (b). A quantity of 4.0 million tonnes of crude oil is proposed to be imported from USSR under the Indo-Soviet Trade Plan. A contract to this effect has been concluded by the Indian Oil Corporation with the concerned Soviet organisation. This will be against rupee payment. It is not possible to precisely indicate at this stage value of the import on account of the uncertainties in the oil market.

(c) The import of the above quantity is spread over the year 1988 and this is allocated to the refineries for refining.

(d) The imports from USSR is under the Trade-Plan concluded between the two countries and is not connected with discussions with other countries.

[*English*]

Gap between demand and supply of Cement

2175. SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

SHRI H.B. PATIL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the present gap between the demand and supply of cement in the country;

(b) whether there is a possibility that the growth of cement industry may slow down due to demand constraints; and

(c) if so, the details regarding correct assessment of demand and production of cement and the steps proposed to be taken to meet the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The production of cement in the country at present is by and large adequate to meet the requirement

(b) and (c). There have been no indications so far of cement production having suffered as a result of demand constraint. Government have announced certain measures recently to reduce the cost of house building material including cement the excise duty on which has been reduced from Rs. 225/- to Rs. 205/- per tonne in order to encourage the growth of housing. Government have also announced various measures for promotion of rural housing. These measures are expected to stimulate the demand for cement

Modification in Liquor Policy

2176. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to modify the sale and making of country liquor policy which is existing in different States;

(b) whether the policy proposed to be adopted keeping in view the welfare of the tribals; and

(c) if so, the guidelines sent by Union Government to different States in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (c). In so far as the Central Government is concerned, the setting up of units for manufacture of alcohol/alcoholic drinks is regulated under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act. Since November, 1975 there has been a ban on setting up of new capacities/expansion of capacities

for manufacture of alcoholic drinks from molasses except in the case of 100% export oriented units. Recently a relaxation has been made for manufacture of alcoholic drinks from raw materials other than molasses. The guidelines in this regard will be issued shortly.

The State Governments, however, have their own regulations for regulating sale etc. of alcohol within the State. Such regulations differ from State to State but they are expected to keep in view the welfare of the public especially the weaker sections of the society.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : I have given notice under Rule 193 demanding a discussion on the attempt to destabilise the country by the external forces with the aid of internal forces.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : We will look into that.

[English]

I have admitted it. That will be decided by the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : That destabilisation fund is there—Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 crores. We have to find out.

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GO-SWAMI (Nabadwip) : Today, the 8th March, is the International Women's Day. I want to draw your attention to the fact that today....

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Give it under Rule 377. Why not under 377 ?

[English]

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GO-SWAMI : I crave your indulgence. Today we went in deputation to the U.S. Embassy from various women's organisations to