

Starting of a Cement Plant in 'Workers Sector' Bhilai Steel Plant

2152. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cement plant is going to be started in 'Workers Sector' by utilising bonus to be paid to workers in Bhilai Steel Plant, and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b) A proposal had been made recently by some of the workers representatives to the Minister Steel and Mines regarding establishment of a cement plant at Bhilai and utilising workers bonus for financing it. Possibility of installing a captive cement plant with a view to utilising surplus blast furnace slag and the lower grade lime stone arising from the captive mines is being examined by Bhilai Steel Plant

Recovery of ESI contributions from Textile Mills, Tamil Nadu

2153 SHRI K RAMAMURTHY Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether National Textile Workers Union, Tamil Nadu have represented several times to the Regional Director, E.S.I.C., Madras for the recovery of E.S.I. contributions estimated to several lakhs of rupees from the Managements of the Algappa Lakshmi Mills, Rajapalayam and the Janakiram Mills, Rajapalayam, Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the non-recovery by E.S.I. Corporation is due to the collusion of E.S.I.C. high officials with employers, and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR.

RAM KIRPAL SINHA): The Employees' State Insurance Corporation have furnished the following information:

(a) Yes. Certain complaints regarding non-recovery of E.S.I Contributions in respect of some employees have been received.

(b) No such complaints of collusion have come to the notice of the Government

(c) The Corporation has already started legal action including prosecution for the recovery of the dues in respect of M/s Algappa Cotton Mills, Rajapalayam. So far as the case of M/s Janakiram Mills is concerned the matter is being looked into

First Press Conference of Indian Ambassador to USA

2154. SHRI S R REDDY.
SHRI C K JAFFER SHARIEF

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether only a few foreign correspondents attended the first press conference held by our Ambassador to USA, Shri Palkhiwala;

(b) the reasons for thin attendance; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure better attendance in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S KUNDU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir It is true that the attendance of the foreign correspondents at this meeting was thin. The main reason was that though invitations had been sent to major newspapers, news agencies and other media in the US Capital, the purpose of the meeting with the press was not sufficiently clearly stated. This may have created an impression that the meeting was of a routine nature with no specific topics for discussion.