

Setting up of new Cement and Paper Industries

456. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new cement and paper industries to be set up in the current financial year; and

(b) the places where these industries are being set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b). Two statements are laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1054/77].

Measures to check untouchability

457. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have written to all the Chief Ministers to take long term measures to eliminate untouchability; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reaction of each State Government thereto and the steps taken by each State Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Prime Minister has also sent some communication to the State Governments to take action against the persons for excesses on the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (c). The Prime Minister in his letter dated the 31st August, 1977, had written to Chief Ministers of various States that in cases where Harijans have been subjected to violence and intimidation over land disputes or where there is any attempt to dispossess by force Harijan tenants or occupants of land severe action may be taken against perpetrators of these crimes. For this purpose, it may be necessary to make such offences cognizable so that the police can directly intervene. Where there is an indication of a possibility of breach of peace, the police may be asked to take preventive action under the law.

The State Governments have also been addressed separately to dedicate themselves to the task of eradication of untouchability and the social inequalities prevalent in the society. They have also

been requested to implement the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 on a priority basis.

State Governments have accordingly taken several measures which includes *inter-alia*, setting up of Committees at various levels to review the working of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and setting up of special cells to deal with the offences under the Act.

Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society

458. SHRI SHIV SAMPATI RAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the General Body meeting of the C.G.E.C.C. Society Ltd., New Delhi was held on the 27th June, 1977;

(b) whether the accounts were not placed in that meeting; if so, the particular reasons therefor;

(c) whether in the said meeting it was unanimously decided that the Accounts for the year 1974-75 shall be presented before the General Body within a period of three months;

(d) whether the accounts for the year 1974-75 have since been placed before the General Body; if so, when and if not the reasons for the same; and

(e) when the accounts referred to above are proposed to be placed before the General Body for approval?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. According to the bye-laws of the Society the accounts together with the audit report should in the first instance be considered by the Board of Directors and the Board of Administration, before being placed before the general body. The auditors had submitted their report on the accounts of the Society for the year 1974-75 in March, 1977. Due to the impending election of delegates, no meeting of the Boards could be held for nearly three months prior to 27th June, 1977. Therefore, the accounts for 1974-75 could not be placed in the meeting of the General Body on 27th June, 1977.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). No, Sir. The accounts for the year 1974-75 are ready for being laid down before the General Body as the same