

2. M/s. Birla Jute Manufacturing Co. Ltd.,

3 M/s. Anglo India Jute Mills Co. Ltd., and

4. M/s. Champdany Jute Co. Ltd. At present, mills are permitted to stock raw jute only upto six weeks' consumption.

#### Exemption of Cement from Import Duty

1931. SHRI AGHAN SINGH THAKUR Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have exempted cement from import duty;

(b) the total quantity likely to be imported with particulars of the medium of import;

(c) the cost and the sale price per bag; and

(d) how far the supply position of Cement will be eased as a result of this measure and how this imported cement is proposed to be distributed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Trading Corporation of India has so far contracted for the import of 84 lakh tonnes of cement. (plus/minus 10 per cent) from South Korea, Poland and Rumania. The cement is presently being imported through the ports of Bombay, Cochin Madras and Visakhapatnam.

(c) The landed cost of the imported cement per bag is about Rs. 30. Imported cement is being sold generally at the same price as for indigenous cement. The price per bag, however, varies slightly from State to State and from place to place in the same State depending on the incidence of Central Sales Tax, State Sales Tax, road transport charges and octroi etc. As the landed cost of the imported cement is higher than the cost of indigenous cement, Government have decided to pool the prices and increase the F.O.R.

destination price of cement by Rs. 17 per tonne w.e.f. 7th January, 1978 so that, together with local levies, the retail price did not increase by more than Rs. 20 per tonne or Re. 1 per bag.

(d) As a result of import of cement supply position has considerably eased, especially in the Port towns and nearby areas. Imported cement is distributed in the same manner and through the same channels as indigenous cement.

#### Rural Industries in Tamil Nadu

1932. SHRI RAGAVALU MOHANARANGAM:

DR. P. V. PERIASAMY.

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the wide embracing plan for setting up of rural industries in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the extent of Central assistance sought in this regard and the extent of such assistance sanctioned or proposed to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of Rural Industries Project Programme, 5 districts viz. Tirunelveli, Salem, Chingleput, Ramanathapuram and Dharmapuri have been covered so far. Under this scheme Central assistance is given to the State Government for meeting full expenditure on the establishment of the project and for organising promotional schemes like training programme, common facility service centre etc. Assistance by way of loan is also provided to State Government for re-advancing the same at a very low rate of interest to the entrepreneurs for starting industries in the project area.

(b) The funds are allotted by the Central Government on the basis of funds available for this programme. From the year 1962-63 to 1976-77 an amount of Rs. 216.18 lakhs comprising

of Rs. 97.57 lakhs as grant and an amount of Rs. 118.61 lakhs as loan has been released to the State Government for implementation of RIP scheme. During the current financial year 1977-78, an amount of Rs. 21.50 lakhs comprising Rs. 9.50 lakhs as grant and Rs. 12.00 lakhs as loan has been allocated to Tamil Nadu Government for the programme.

### ऊर्जा मंत्रियों का सम्मेलन

1933. श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण नायक : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि : (क) क्या 23 जनवरी, 1978 को दिल्ली में राज्यों के ऊर्जा मंत्रियों के दो दिवसीय सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा था कि उद्योगों की तुलना में कृषि के लिए विद्युत की दरें उंचाई हैं और यदि कृषि के लिये दरें कम नहीं की जा सकती तो ये दरें उद्योगों से बचल की जाने वाली दरों से अधिक नहीं होनी चाहिए ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो किन-किन राज्यों ने प्रधान मंत्री के सुझाव को गिन्यान्वित किया है और कृषि के लिए विद्युत की दरों में कमी की है ; और

(ग) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कृषि के लिए विद्युत की दरों को कम करने के बारे में राज्यों को लिखा है और यदि हाँ, तो क्या ?

### ऊर्जा मंत्री (श्री पी. 0 रामचन्द्रन) :

(क) 23 जनवरी, 1978 को राज्यों के विद्युत मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में अपने उद्घाटन भाषण में प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा था कि उद्योगों की तुलना में कृषि के लिए बिजली की दरें कम होनी चाहिए ।

(ख) अप्रैल, 1977 से आन्ध्र प्रदेश, पंजाब, राजस्थान, तमिलनाडु तथा उत्तर प्रदेश राज्यों में कृषि के लिए दरें कम कर दी गयीं हैं। पश्चिमी बंगाल को छोड़कर जहाँ-पर कृषि के लिए बिजली इयूटी की दर लघु उद्योगों की दर से अधिक है सभी राज्यों में लघु उद्योगों की तुलना में कृषि कार्यों के लिए

अस्य प्रीसत करें, जिनमें बिजली इयूटी की शामिल है, कम है।

(ग) कृषि के लिए बिजली की दरों में कमी करने के लिए कोई विशेष सुझाव राज्यों को नहीं दिया गया है।

### Investment in India by Multinationals

1934. DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reported statement (Statesman dated 4th February 1978) of the Prime Minister that the Government would be willing to consider proposal for investment in India by multinationals "within the framework of the new Industrial Policy and the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act" represents the policy of Government;

(b) whether the official study group headed by Additional Secretary in the Industry Ministry has recommended certain amendments in the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act; and

(c) whether the statement in the Patriot dated 3rd February 1978 "these concessions immediately after U.S. multinational bosses held informal round-table with Janata Ministers, high officials and private businessmen are considered to be significant" is correct?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Paras 24 to 26 of the Statement on Industrial Policy laid before the Parliament on 23-12-1977 have clarified Government's policy regarding Foreign Investment.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

### गुजरात में डामों का विद्युतीकरण

1935. श्री अमर सिंह राठवा : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि : (क) हाथी समिति की सिफारिशों के अनुसार