

country and the black marketing taking place all over the country;

(b) what are the steps taken by the Government to distribute the cement to the needy consumer of fixed prices; and

(c) the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): (a) to (c). Due to overall inadequate availability of cement there are reports of some unsocial elements indulging in black marketing. The cement manufacturers have been requested to exercise greater vigilance on their stockists/dealers. The State Governments have also been requested to examine whether a direct distribution system on the pattern proposed by the West Bengal Government or any other suitable method for control over distribution needs to be introduced in every state. They have also been requested to direct the district authorities to initiate more positive action against offenders and also to take initiative and keep a vigilant look out for the offenders. Cement has been declared as an Essential Commodity for purposes of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and adequate powers are available to the State Governments to take action against persons indulging in unethical practices.

Curb on big Industrial Houses

4266. **SHRI DHIRENDRA NATH BASU:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have decided to put a curb on large industrial houses to encourage small entrepreneurs and widen the scope of the public sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b). In the Industrial Policy

Statement presented to Parliament on 23rd December, 1977, Government have clearly enunciated its approach towards large houses. This is being implemented in terms of licensing policy and through the strict application of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act. On the role of public sector, the Statement on Industrial Policy states that there will be an expanding role for the public sector in several fields. It also emphasises that not only will the public sector be the producer of important and strategic goods of basic nature, but it would also be used effectively as a stabilising force for maintaining essential supplies for the consumer.

World Bank Aid to U.P. for construction of roads

4267. **SHRI RAJE VISHVESHWAR RAO:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of U.P. received a big amount from the World Bank for the construction of roads in that State;

(b) if so, whether there is any chance for the same Bank to help Maharashtra the same way for constructing roads in the rural area; and

(c) if not, whether the Central Government will give money to construct roads in the backward Chandrapur District of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This apparently relates to State roads. Construction of such roads is the responsibility of the State Government concerned.