

(b) whether he is aware that regional imbalance in production and distribution of cement has contributed to the current cement crisis; and

(c) if so, what positive steps are being contemplated to remove this imbalance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) Separate statements showing region-wise production, allocation and despatches of cement during the year 1978 are given in statements A, B and C. Laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See no LT-3292/79].

(b) Cement plants are set up near the sites of lime-stone deposits. Therefore, cement is produced only in certain parts of the country. The allocation of cement is made according to the needs of each State and subject to availability of cement. The shortage of Cement in the country is due to spurt in the demand for cement for development works like housing, irrigation, power etc.

(c) So far as regional imbalance in the production of cement is concerned, efforts are being made to establish mini cement plants, wherever lime stone deposits are available even in small quantities. Efforts are also made to encourage setting up of split location units with the grinding plants nearer the consumption centres. As regards distribution of cement, the following steps have been taken to ensure equitable distribution of cement to consumers at controlled price throughout the country:—

(i) A uniform f.o.r. destination price of cement has been fixed for the country as a whole;

(ii) To facilitate movement of cement by road, subsidy is being provided on liberal terms; and

(iii) Additional subsidy is being provided for movement of cement to hilly and difficult areas.

(iv) Public distribution of cement by the State Governments is being progressively introduced.

Emigration of Indian Nuclear Scientists to different Countries

312. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the apprehension prevailing among Indian Nuclear Scientists that their field of expertise faces an uncertain future and the resultant thinking that they would do well to emigrate to countries where they would be better appreciated;

(b) whether this feeling of insecurity has been generated by people in high policy making and opinion making positions who have tended to downgrade nuclear energy; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to remove these apprehensions and to prevent this exodus?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) Government have received no indication of any such apprehension.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Constitutional Amendments on More Power to States

313. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:

SHRI G. S. TOHRA:

SHRI BASANT SINGH
KHALSA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been recently demands from several State Gov-