

(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-

ernments for more powers to the States and Constitutional amendments for this purpose;

(b) whether this demand is justified by the unprecedented political situation in the country at present where there is one party in power at the Centre and in Northern States and in the South there are Governments controlled by parties which are in Opposition at the Centre;

(c) whether as a result clashes have arisen between the Centre and some Southern States on issues as Hindi or location of industrial plants; and

(d) if so, whether Government now propose to introduce constitutional amendments in the above said direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL):

(a) to (d). Three State Governments, namely, West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala have made proposals to the Central Government for the amendment of the Constitution with a view to grant more powers to States. West Bengal and Tripura have also suggested convening a National debate for the purpose.

2. There have been no clashes between the Centre and the Southern States on the issue of Hindi. It may be mentioned that the Government have repeatedly made it clear that assurances given by Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri on this issue as already incorporated in the Official Languages Act, 1963 as amended by the Official Languages (Amendment) Act, 1967 are being and will continue to be fully honoured. There is no question of going back on them.

3. While various States do prefer their claim for the setting up of a particular industrial plant within

their area, there is no question of any clash between the Centre and the States over this issue.

4. The Administrative Reforms Commission had studied the subject of Centre-State relations in great depth and in their Report on "Centre-State Relationships" they recommended that no Constitutional amendment was necessary for ensuring proper and harmonious relations between the Centre and the States, in as much as the provisions of the Constitution governing Centre-State relations were adequate for the purpose of meeting any situation or resolving any problems that might arise in this field. The Central Government, after consulting the States, under the present time to be approached recommended by the ARC.

5. The Government do not consider the present time to be appropriate for any formal debate on this question.

6. It may, however, be stated that at its meeting held on 18th and 19th March 1978, the National Development Council resolved that a Committee should be formed to discuss fiscal arrangements in the light of the draft Five Year Plan 1978-83 which would, *inter alia*, review the Gadgil formula and the scope of Centrally sponsored schemes. This Committee was set up by the Government with the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission as the Chairman and the Union Finance Minister and Chief Ministers of all States as members. Various points have been made by the Chief Ministers in regard to certain aspects of the Centre-State financial relations before this Committee. Another meeting of the National Development Council was held in January, 1979 and this matter is still under consideration. Some of the issues raised have been covered by the report of the Seventh Finance Commission.