

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). Ministry of Labour was not consulted before the issue of the Essential Services Maintenance (Maharashtra) Ordinance, 1980. In case of other similar ordinances, Ministry of Labour had been consulted. However, all these ordinances were considered and approved by the Cabinet before promulgation. Inter-departmental consultation is a procedural matter and can be dispensed with in cases of extreme urgency.

Indian Scientists Abroad

2700. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey conducted by International Confederation of Free Trade Union has revealed that the Indian Scientists and technical personnel are getting raw deal; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to safeguard the interests of Indian nationals working abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) Government have only seen a report in the press, on the survey purported to have been conducted by the International Confederation of Free Trade Union, in which it is stated that Indian scientists and other technical personnel including semi-skilled workers were being discriminated against in several countries where they were working and suffering large scale exploitation in this regard. Government has no other information concerning this survey.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of Cement in West Bengal

2702. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is an acute

shortage of cement in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to fulfil the allotted quota for the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) There is a general scarcity of cement in the country including West Bengal as the overall availability of cement in the country is less than the demand.

(b) An increase in the allocation of cement to the State of West Bengal as well as other States is only possible when availability position of cement in the country improves. Government are however making every effort to increase the availability of cement in the country by better utilisation of existing capacities, sanctioning new capacities and imports.

Loss of production in industrial Sector due to Shortfall of Coal

2703. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) total loss of production in the last three years in industrial sector due to heavy shortfall of coal; year-wise; and

(b) the total loss to national exchequer in rupees during that period; year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) and (b). It is difficult to assess precisely and isolate the loss in industrial production which can be attributed to inadequate coal supply alone. Production losses are generally caused by a combination of factors like infrastructural constraints, shortage of raw materials, lack of finances, labour problems, slackness in demand, etc.