

High level working group on Cement

6998. SHRI RAMJI BHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report/interim report or recommendations of the high level working group/Committee appointed for Cement Industry for the prices, distribution, freight and location etc.

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, when the said reports are likely to be submitted;

(c) places and organisations, institutes etc.,

(d) the details of the expenses incurred on the said Committee; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken to implement the said recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) and (b). The report of the Working Group is expected to be received shortly.

(c) The Working Group has not made any visit as stated.

(d) No expenditure has been incurred on the Working Group.

(e) Does not arise.

Soviet Assistance in Modernising PEPA Mill

6999. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Union has agreed to assist India in modernising the NEPA Mill in paper sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the offer and the protocol bilateral agreements signed during the visit of the Soviet delegation of Paper Experts led by G. F. Fronin Deputy Minister of Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) and (b). A working programme of cooperation in the field of the pulp and paper industry has been drawn up between India and the USSR. The programme envisages cooperation in construction and modernisation of pulp and paper mills, scientific and research work, participation in setting up pulp and paper plants in third countries and the possibilities of exchange of certain pulp and paper products and other materials. As an example in the cooperation for modernisation and reconstruction of existing paper mills in India, it was agreed that the possibility of rebuilding and modernisation of Nepa Mills could be studied.

Rise in prices of Cosmetic and Soap

7000. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the cosmetic and soap manufacturing units have arbitrarily increased the price of their products during the period January to May, 1980; and

(b) if so, the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) and (b). There is no price control in respect of cosmetics and soap. No data on prices of cosmetics are maintained. In the case of soap, however, there has been an increase in prices. This price increase is mainly attributable to increase in costs of inputs.

Most Backward Districts in Tamil Nadu

7001. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in Tamil Nadu which are classified as most backward district in industry; and