

य गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री योगेंद्र मक्वाना) :

(क) 9 मई, 1980 को जिला अल्मोड़ा के गांव काफलता में हरिजनों और स्वर्ण हिन्दुओं के बीच एक झगड़े में 14 हरिजन मारे गए थे।

(ख) जी हाँ, श्रीमान।

(ग) उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के अनुसार हरिजनों की एक बारात जिसमें लगभग 40 व्यक्ति थे जब गांव काफलता को जा रही थी, ऊंची जाति के हिन्दुओं ने दुल्हे को गांव से पैदल ले जाने के लिए कहा। इससे उनमें झगड़ा हो गया जिसके परिणाम स्वरूप 14 हरिजन और एक उच्च जाति के हिन्दु की मृत्यु हो गयी। प्रथम सूचना रिपोर्ट में उल्लिखित 33 अभियुक्तों में से 30 अभियुक्त व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध आरोपपत्र 26-5-80 को प्रस्तुत किया गया है। एक अभियुक्त घटना में मारा गया। शेष दो अभियुक्त व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता की धारा 82/83 के अधीन कार्यवाही की जा रही है।

Amendment of Clause Relating to take over of Sick Units

349. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the clause relating to take over of sick units;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the proposal is likely to be brought in the current session of the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANA): (a) and (b) Certain amendments to the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 are under examination, among which are proposals relating to sick units.

(c) The amending Bill is under finalisation.

Naval Armament Production Unit at Cochin

350. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending before the Government of India for setting up a Naval Armament Production Unit at Cochin in the State of Kerala; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government of India in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) There is no such proposal before the Government.

(b) Does not arise

Repeal of Official Secrets Act

351. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOU-DHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in countries like United States of America, Canada and West Germany there are no Official Secrets Acts;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to repeal the present Official Secrets Act and enact suitable legislation like the Freedom of Information Act as is in force in Canada, United States of America and West Germany; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Canada has its Official Secrets Act. In USA and the Federal Republic of Germany, there are no specific Official Secrets Act as such, but legal provisions exist for protection of classified official information;

(b) No, Sir;

(c) In India, the policies and decisions of the executive are under constant and vigilant scrutiny by Parliament and information is furnished to Parliament in various forms in accordance with the Rules of Pro-

cedure and Conduct of Business. It may, therefore, not be either necessary or desirable to have a statutory obligation to have a legislation which may be justifiable in other and often very different context. Besides, the cost of administering such a system would be very high and not commensurate with the advantages that are likely to accrue. On the other hand the need for preserving secrecy of official information in any Government is self evident. The official Secrets Act merely protects such information from unauthorised disclosure and penalises unauthorised communication of official information. It is, therefore, considered necessary to retain such a law.

Proposal for handing over of cement industry to Cement Corporation of India

352. KUMARI KAMALA KUMARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take over the cement industry and hand over the same to Cement Corporation of India to improve the availability thereof in the country; and

(b) if not, the steps to be taken by Government to improve the cement availability in the country?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement indicating the steps being taken by Government to improve availability of cement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

The following steps are being taken to improve availability of cement in the country:—

(i) The export of cement outside the country has been banned except to Nepal and Bhutan.

(ii) Cement is being imported into the country.

(iii) Additional capacity for cement is being created.

(iv) Existing rules relating to freight reimbursement for road movements have been liberalised.

(v) The Govt. have also granted assistance to the cement industry for the use of captive power for the production of cement during the period of power cuts.

(vi) Government have announced assistance to the cement industry for the use of furnace oil for production of cement due to inadequate supplies of coal.

(vii) Production of existing units is also closely monitored to ensure better capacity utilisation.

(viii) The import of precalcinator technology has been permitted to enable increase in production.

(ix) The construction of on going projects is being expedited.

(x) Government have also decided to encourage the setting up of cement plants at the site of or near steel plants to utilise the slag.

(xi) Government have also decided to encourage the setting up of a large number of mini cement plants.

Military aid from U.S.S.R.

353. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has asked for military aid from U.S.S.R. recently; and

(b) if so, the amount asked for and on what counts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b) India has been purchasing defence equipment and supplies not as