

**Setting up of Cement Plants in the North East Region**

9267. SHRI CHINGWANG KOYAK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage of cement in the North East Region as a consequence where of many programmes of the North East Council, the Central Government, the State Government and the Union Territories cannot be completed;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up mini cement plants in the North East Region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Due to general scarcity of cement in the country it has not yet been possible to meet the requirement of cement of all the regions including North Eastern Region in full. To this extent it is possible that some delay may have taken place in the completion of some of the programmes.

(b) and (c). An outlay of Rs. 9 crores has been provided in the Sixth Plan of the North Eastern Council for development of cement industry in the North Eastern Region. This includes a provision for 30 tpd plant at Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh which is already under implementation. Detailed project reports for other possible locations in the North Eastern Region have yet to be prepared and approved. In addition, subject to further studies and investigations, provision has been made in the Sixth Plan of Manipur for setting up of 100 tpd plant in Manipur State.

**Policy of Government towards promoting consumers electronics**

9268. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that like the telecommunication giants abroad like RCA and ITI employ several brilliant Indian engineers, some of whom might be ready to return to the country and establish the same line of manufacture for which the international giants are now well known; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government towards promoting a large base for consumer electronics, upscale the component industry to gain economies of scale and reduce costs and attract investment and technology in the field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that a large number of scientists and engineers specialised in different areas of electronics are working in major companies, abroad.

(b) Approvals have been issued in the last six months for expanding the capacity of all TV receiver manufacturers in the large scale sector from 20,000 sets/year to 40,000sets/year. Similar expansions have also been approved for the 4 TV picture Tube manufacturers, so as to improve the techno-economic viability of their manufacturing operations, thereby reducing costs and prices. As for electronic components, several industrial licences have been issued for large projects for the manufacture of electronic components involving foreign technology, so as to enable the production of professional quality components to be produced with economies of scale and hence at costs more comparable to international levels. Such industrial approvals issued over the last year involve an investment (by both the entrepreneurs and public financial institutions) of around Rs. 30 crores.