

Efforts to Utilize Brain Drain

7108. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
DR. VASANT KUMAR
PANDIT :
PROF. P. J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission Member Shri M. S. Swaminathan recently met Indian scientists working in the US and explored the possibility of co-operation with them; and

(b) whether any suggestion were made at the meeting to find out new areas for research, identify and assist scientists to work in India; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS, ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b). Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Member, planning Commission and chairman, SACC during his recent visit to United States from February 9 to 19, 1982 for chairing the UN Advisory Committee for Science and Technology Development met a cross section of young and senior Indian scientists. Discussions were held specially in the emerging area of Biotechnology which is of enormous significance from the view point of its application in Agriculture, medicine and Industry. Organisational matters, provision of enzymes, chemicals and isotopes, manpower development, institutional training, compilation and exchange of information, institutional mechanism for a continuous feed back etc. were discussed. Some of the areas for research such as Vaccine production, of interferon research, production of synthetic peptides, nitrogen fixation etc. were considered important for collaborative programmes and for utilizing the expertise of Indian nationals abroad.

Second Phase of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

7109. SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have substantially increased the production target and added new features for the second phase of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much more indigenous raw material and manpower can now be utilised; and

(c) whether the investment target has also gone up and if so, to what extent and whether we propose to take foreign assistance for this stage of the construction and if so, the countries that have shown interest to help us and the details of the help that will be forthcoming ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) No. Sir, There has been no change in the proposed capacity of the steel plant namely 3.4 million tonnes of liquid Steel.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total estimated cost, as sanctioned by Government in June, 1979 for setting up an integrated steel plant at Visakhapatnam, was Rs. 2,256 crores with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 500.20 crores. While sanctioning this estimate, however, it was stipulated that detailed and firmed up project cost estimate supported by a Comprehensive Revised Detailed Project Report (CRDPR) incorporating modern technologies and finally determined product-mix, would be prepared. According to CRDPR, revised estimated cost of the project is Rs. 2,935.41 crores. With the margin money and interest during construction the revised cost comes to Rs. 3098.98 crores.

Under the inter-Governmental Agreement dated June, 12, 1979 between the Governments of India and of the USSR, the Soviet credit of Roubles 250 million made available earlier by the USSR is to be utilised for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. The Government of India has not as yet made a formal request for more credit for this project. However, the indications are that USSR Government will favourably consider a request for a further credit of Roubles 250 million for completion of the project.

Uniform selling price of Cement

7110. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL:
SHRI NAVIN RAVANI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cement industry has decided to take concerted action to help to stabilise cement price in the country at lower levels;

(b) if so, whether to achieve this purpose the cement industry has decided to fix uniform selling prices on a regional basis for every quarter taking into account the

various elements including overheads and transportation charges;

(c) the other steps the cement industry has taken to reduce the prices and also made available cement in all the regions of the country; and

(d) to what extent cement is available at all the regions and at what prices ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (d) : The non-levy cement is free from price and distribution control. However, the representatives of the Cement Manufacturers' Association had met and assured the Government that the Cement Industry would maintain supplies of cement from the non-levy quota to all areas in the country including deficit pockets at the least upto the same level as obtained in 1981 irrespective of the transport costs. The Cement Manufacturers' Association have further announced the maximum consumers' price of cement for different States as under:-

Rs. per bag 50 kg.	States/Union Territories
70/-	Maharashtra
65/-	Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and North Eastern States.
62/-	Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Recommendations of Ghosh Committee on Cement

7111. **SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the item-wise comparison of the recommendations of L.Kumar High powered committee and the present A.K. Ghosh Committee on cement ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) Important recommendations of the High level Committee on cement industry headed by Shri Lovraj Kumar were:—

(i) Introduction of 3 tier system of retention prices of cement ;

(ii) uniform f.o.r. price of Ordinary Portland Cemet, Portland Pozzolanic cement and Portland Slag Cement throughout the country ;

(iii) Continuance of the subsidies for consumption of furnace oil by units already having oil firing equipment subsidy for captive power generation by cement producing units for existing sets.

The following are the main recommendations of the Committee on Development of Cement Industry headed by Dr A.K. Ghosh, Chairman, Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices:—

(1) There should be one single ex-factory retention price of cement for all cement units throughout the country ;

(2) Partial de-control of cement be introduced with immediate effect ;

(3) All existing units may be required to first supply upto 75% of their installed capacity to the Cement Controller and any production in excess of this percentage should be permitted to be sold by them in the open market free from price and distribution control ;

(4) levy percentage of cement should be fixed at 60% of out-put for all new units which start their production after 1-1-1982 for a period of four years ; and

(5) in order to meet the deficit in cement supply in the short-run and in order to keep the free market prices in check, cement import by actual users should be permitted either directly or through State Trading Corporation.

Incentives for New Units

7112. **SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) the various incentives-quantum and terms which are offered by the Central Government and the various incentives offered by the State Governments and Union Territories (State-wise) for increasing industrial productions in large, medium and small industrial sectors (Sector-wise) ; and

(b) how these direct and indirect incentives given by various States to the new industrial units compare in quantum and numbers ?