

(g) if not, the reasons for imposing the system forcefully; and

(h) the steps proposed to be taken to evolve a system acceptable to all Unions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The GIC have reported that traditionally it has been the practice to invite eleven unions/associations representing different classes of employees for discussions on employee-related matters. Of late, more and more new groups have been seeking representation in such discussions. The management of GIC is finding it difficult to accommodate all such requests without first ascertaining their numerical strength. Therefore, the GIC proposes to introduce a check-off system. Under this method, employees will have the option to indicate the name of the union/association of which they are members and authorize the management to deduct from their salary such unions' annual subscription. Based on such options, the representative strength of unions is proposed to be ascertained. Only the unions/associations having prescribed minimum representative strength are proposed to be called for discussions on employee-related matters in future.

(d) and (e) Before arriving at the proposed system, extensive consultations/discussions were held by the management of GIC with existing employees' unions/associations as well as with new groups. Despite extensive consultations, some unions/groups have represented against the proposed check-off system.

(f) The check-off system is the preferred option arrived at by the management after extensive consultations with all concerned.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Akaltara Unit of CCI

2514.DR. MAHANT CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which commercial production of Akaltara cement factory of Cement Corporation of India situated in newly formed district Janjgir Chamba in rural area of Madhya Pradesh has been commenced;

(b) the details of the production, capacity utilisation and loss-profit during each of the last three years;

(c) the date on which production of this unit is stopped and the reasons therefor;

(d) the date on which the case of declaring it as a sick unit was referred to BIFR;

(e) whether global tenders were invited for sale of this unit before referring it to BIFR;

(f) if so, reasons therefor;

(g) whether the salary to the employees of the above units are not paid regularly; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) Akaltara Plant commenced commercial production on 1st April, 1981.

(b) The year-wise production, capacity utilisation and net loss-profit during 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 are as under:

Year	Production (lakh MT)	Capacity Utilisation (%)	Net Profit/Loss (Rs. Lakhs)
1995-96	0.52	13	2011.47
1996-97	0.43	11	2993.7
1997-98	-	-	1095.81

\*Production suspended since 9.12.96.

(c) The production of the unit was suspended with affect from 9.12.1996 as the unit had become unviable and it was not possible to recover even the variable cost.

(d) CCI was referred to BIFR on 25.4.96 and was declared as a sick unit on 8.8.96 by BIFR.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, global tenders were invited on the 30th September, 1996 through M/s SBI Capital Markets Ltd.

(g) and (h) CCI has been facing liquidity problems which has led to delay in timely payment of salary and wages to the employees. Salary payment will be expedited by the Company as soon as the liquidity position improves.

[English]

#### HCF Jute Bags

2515.SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to grant 10% External Market Assistance (EMA) on the newly launched environment friendly hydrocarbon free (HCF) jute bags;

(b) if so, the specification of HCF jute bags on which EMA will be provided; and