

(b) Losses have been mainly due to high rate of depreciation and low deployment due to low serviceability of helicopters particularly Westlands, shortage of qualified manpower and non-availability of spares in time.

(c) The Company does not have any liquidity problem.

(d) to (g). Efforts are on to meet the shortage of manpower and for improving availability of spares. Further, two Committees—one to examine the serviceability and safety aspects of Westland Helicopters in the fleet of Pawan Hans Limited and the other to go into the aspects relating to the purchase—have been constituted by the Government. Specific measures, as deemed necessary, are taken to improve the working of the Company. There is no proposal at present to amalgamate Pawan Hans Limited with Vayudoot Limited.

[*Translation*]

Availability of Hydel Power Production Capacity in Uttar Pradesh

8848. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimate has been made of the hydel power production capacity in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the capacity proposed to be exploited during the Eighth Plan;

(c) whether any funds have been earmarked for purpose; and

(d) if so, the project-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A capacity addition of 259.4 M.W. from hydroelectric Projects is envisaged during the Eighth Plan period.

(c) and (d). The Eighth Plan outlay for power sector has not been finalised.

Setting up of cement unit in Pithoragarh District, Uttar Pradesh

8849. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of the deposits of lime stone in Pithoragarh District of Uttar Pradesh for production of cement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for setting up a cement factory based on lime stone there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the alternative measures being for exploitation of these deposits?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). The National Inventory on Cement Grade Limestone Deposits in India, compiled by National Council for Cement and Building Materials, indicates 15 million tonnes of measured and 93 million tonnes of inferred grade of limestone in District Pithoragarh.

(c) to (e). At present, one mini cement plant for a capacity of 16,500 TPA is under implementation at Pithoragarh District. No other application has been received for setting up cement plant in Pithoragarh District.

Setting up of Mini Hydel Plants in Hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh

8850. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up mini hydro-electric projects in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh on a large scale;

(b) if so, the number of such on going projects at present;

(c) whether Government propose to allocate funds for this purpose in 1990-91; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN): (a) and (b). According to the Uttar Pradesh Laghu Jal Vidyut Nigam, construction work on 19 mini/micro hydro schemes of upto 3 MW capacity is going on in the hill regions of the State. Pre-construction work, such as discharge measurement, surveys and investigations and preparation of project reports, is going on in respect of 97 other mini/micro schemes in the State.

(c) and (d). Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 4.85 crores for mini/micro hydel schemes in the State during 1990-91.

Export by small scale industrial units

8851. SHRI JAGDISH SINGH KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether increase in export by small scale industries will help in removing unemployment to a large extent; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Increase in exports by Small Scale Industries will generate more employment opportunities.

(b) In the Import and Export Policy, 1990-93 effective from 1.4.1990, the small scale sector continues to get special treatment. Industrial Raw Materials Assistance Centre (IRMAC) Scheme which is meant for servicing the import requirements of indigenous industry has been simplified so that the small scale sector will now be able to avail of this benefit without the need for import licence in their favour. A special import facility for recognised service centres to encourage employment of skilled persons has been introduced in the new policy. This benefit is also in favour of the small scale sector. The new policy has continued with earlier provisions of giving double weightage of exports of the products manufactured by the small scale sector for grant of recognition as Export House/Trading House.

[English]

Cargo Transport Facilities

8852. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposals to improve increase the cargo transport facilities of Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Container Corporation of India—a Government Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways—would establish Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFSs) at various locations in the country to promote containerisation and inter-modal transport of both international trade and domestic cargo. Facilities for handling export and import cargo are being devel-