

January, 1987) is 7,549. In addition, seven community/institutional biogas plants have been installed in Orissa during the Seventh Plan.

Cost of production of LPG

*273. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the cost of production of cooking gas when bottled;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to reduce the present price of LPG in view of the larger demand for the cooking gas; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTI) : (a) The cost of production of cooking gas, including marketing costs/margins, filling charges and other charges is Rs. 4938.79 per mt.; Rs. 70.13 per 14.2 kg. cylinder.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Production of Cement

*274. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated requirement and production of cement by the end of 1990;

(b) whether mini cement plants are economically viable; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to help mini cement plants in increasing their production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) The requirement as well as production of cement by the end of the financial year 1989-90 is estimated to be around 49 million tonnes.

(b) While representations from the associations of mini cement plants have recently been received about their deteriorating financial position, no detailed study has been made by the Government as yet.

(c) Mini cement plants with a capacity of upto 200 TPD were exempted from the requirement of providing levy cement. With a view to enabling these units to maximise utilisation of their existing installed capacities and to increase production, the limit for such exemption from levy obligation has been increased upto an installed capacity of 300 TPD.

[Translation]

Losses in Cement Industry

*275. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the financial loss being suffered by the cement industry these days;

(b) if so, the number of the cement factories set up during the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans which have been incurring losses continuously;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal for exempting cement industry from excise duty and to do away with the policy of levy cement; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received from the Cement Manufacturers' Association as well as some individual units about the financial problems faced by cement plants. However, the details regarding the losses which might have been incurred by