

and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether new cottage industries were encouraged during these years on the basis of latest technology adopted in rural industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO): (a) and (b). As compared to village industries, Khadi continues to receive more incentives. The incentives to khadi include interest-free loans, exemption from sales-tax and custom duty, standing rebate throughout the year and special rebate for 90/120 days on sale of all varieties of khadi. Production of khadi, both in terms of quantity and value, has been increasing over the years.

Village industries also are being encouraged with incentives and financial allocations. However, fiscal concessions such as exemption from excise duty are given to them only on a selective basis.

(c) and (d). With the latest amendment of the KVIC Act, the scope of village industries has been widened. In pursuance of the amended Act, KVIC has identified 34 new Village Industries (besides the 26 existing village industries) to be taken up for development from 1988-89 onwards. The new industries include items such as solar & wind energy implements, radios, cassette players, cassette recorder, voltage stabilisers and electronic watches.

[English]

#### **Closure of Steel Tube Factories**

\*388. SHRI V. TULSIRAM:  
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE  
PATIL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of steel tube factories in the organised sector and number out of them which have been closed since October, 1988;

(b) the details of the units closed including their location and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being contemplated by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO): (a) There are 97 units in the organised sector engaged in the manufacture of steel pipes and tubes including stainless steel pipes. Government have not received any report of closure from any of these units since October, 1988.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### **Use of Particulate fall out from Electro-Static Precipitators of Thermal Power Stations**

\*389. DR. DIGVIJAY SINH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of particulate fall out deposited around electro-static precipitators in thermal power stations throughout the country;

(b) whether most of the accumulated dust finds its way into rivers and lakes thereby causing environmental hazards;

(c) how much this material is used for making bricks;

(d) whether private enterprises are fully using this material for making bricks; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to fully utilised this material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e). The total quantity of ash generated from the thermal power stations in the country is estimated to be in the range of 35-40 million tonnes per annum about 80% of which is collected by the electro-static precipitators as fly ash and the balance 20% as bottom ash. Areas for dumping ash are normally provided for the coal-based thermal stations where ash settles down and decanted water flows out.

Private parties are not, at present, utilizing this material for making bricks in a significant way. The lack of dry collection facilities, the limitations of distance over which the ash can be commercially transported and the heterogeneity of the ash available, have contributed to restricting its economic utilization. Efforts are being made by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to encourage entrepreneurs to use ash in brick-making and an award has been placed on M/s. Hindustan Pre-fab Ltd., New Delhi, to manufacture two million bricks by utilizing ash from the Badarpur Thermal Power Station on a trial basis.

With a view to encouraging the use of fly ash in the construction industry, the National Buildings Organisation (N.B.O.) have arranged field demonstrations and have sponsored a project to the Neyveli Lignite Corporation. The bricks produced with fly ash and lime have been utilized in the construction of experimental houses in the Neyveli township. The N.B.O. were also associated with the setting up of a cellular concrete plant at Ennore in Tamil Nadu. Cellular concrete blocks and roofing panels have been extensively used in the housing projects undertaken by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board.

### **Performance of State Electricity Boards**

\*390. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of State Electricity Boards has improved during the current year and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any further steps are proposed for necessary improvement in the performance of the State Electricity Boards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI):

(a) The power generation by the State Electricity Boards during the period April, 1988 to February, 1989 has been reported to be 124,818 MU as against 119,244 MU during the corresponding period last year. The financial performance has, however, not improved with respect to last year.

(b) and (c). In order to improve the performance of the SEBs, a number of measures have been taken which, inter alia, include:

- (a) Implementation of Centrally sponsored renovation and modernisation scheme covering 33 thermal stations, with Central loan assistance totalling Rs. 500 crores.
- (b) Introduction of Incentives Schemes for improved performance of the thermal power stations;
- (c) Introduction of Incentive schemes for reduction of Transmission & Distribution losses.