

(e) whether Government have taken any decision on the suggestions made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Government have no information about an All India Conference on welfare of tribals in the country having been held at Bhubaneswar in October, 1981.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Distribution of Cement to States

*476. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK:

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cement distribution to the States has fallen totally out of tune with their demands;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(c) whether Government had made suitable changes in the allocation of cement;

(d) if so, the main changes that are likely to be contemplated;

(e) whether Government have also contemplated adequate powers to State Governments for proper distribution of cement to consumers all over; and

(f) if so, the extent to which these changes have helped the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (f) There has been a general scarcity of cement in the country and to this extent, it has not been possible to meet the demand for cement in full in the country. The main reason for shortfall has been inadequacy of infra-structural inputs. From Quarter

IV/81 (Oct-Dec, 1981) Government have decided to give weightage to population and also to plan schemes in rural areas and housing schemes for slum dwellers and the needs of Harijans, Adivasis and other poorer sections of the society, in respect of allocation of cement. Powers have been delegated to the State Governments/Union Territories who are fully competent under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, to effect distribution of cement. It is expected that consumers will get equitable distribution of cement at fair prices under this arrangement.

Demands of Newsprint

*477. SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated requirements of newsprint of the current year;

(b) quantity of newsprint imported for the current year; and

(c) quantity of estimated domestic production of newsprint and actual domestic production of newsprint till date for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) The requirement of newsprint for the current year 1981-82 was originally estimated at 4.20 lakh tonnes. The estimate is, however, under review at present.

(b) The quantity of newsprint imported during the current Financial year (upto 30th November, 1981) is 2,43,000 metric tonnes.

(c) As against estimated domestic production of 55,000 tonnes of newsprint in the current financial year, the production during April to November, 1981 was 38,329 tonnes.

Collaboration of Good Year with Public Undertakings

*478. SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state: