

As my colleague has said, we have had the cooperation of schools purely on a voluntary basis in different parts of the country, the ex-servicemen and many other such people, some on voluntary basis and some on other basis.

I must confess that we have lagged behind, with regard to water pollution. This is the responsibility of the States and the various cities. The only real way of preventing pollution is to recycle urban waste and clean it. There is no other way. This is very expensive. I had even recently written to all the Chief Ministers and the others concerned, to try and see what can be done.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I would like to know whether the Government is aware that in the lower reaches of the Ganga, that is Bhagirathi Hugli, it has become totally polluted and the marine resources are dried up and it is posing a threat to the city of Calcutta. I think that it should not be left entirely to the State Government.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: This is a very serious state administrative failure.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I would like to know whether some special steps are taken. We are regularly visited by floods and droughts. I would like to know whether it is not due to environmental or ecological changes on a great scale and whether some special measures would be taken to check this in view of the intense suffering and the losses that the country, is going through so that the country is not subjected to drought and floods on a regular basis.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: One of the major reasons for floods and drought is deforestation. Silt comes down with floods and the river beds rise. Drought occurs because trees are needed to attract rain. Therefore, we are taking interest in this matter. But it is not entirely in our hand. Sometimes action has to be taken in other neighbouring countries.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: You should take severe action against nature itself.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Perhaps the Hon. Member has a method of doing this. If so, I shall be glad to have his suggestions.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I would like to know whether any special steps would be taken by the Central Government particularly in regard to the city of Calcutta.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: This question does not deal only with Calcutta. The question of pollution is not confined to Calcutta. We have similar problems in Benaras and in many other places and they should all be looked into. But the State Government has a big responsibility.

Subsidy or Loan for Small Scale Units

*253. SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNU-PATI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial help that is given to small scale units as subsidy or loan;

(b) whether it is proposed to raise the loan or subsidy suitably because costs of plants and operation work have increased considerably; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table on the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). Financial assistance in the form of loan is given to the small scale units by the financial institutions mainly to meet the term loan requirements and the commercial banks primarily meet their working capital requirements. The limit sanctioned by the commercial banks to the small scale industrial units at the end of June, 1981 was nearly Rs. 4355 crores. The financial assistance sanctioned by the State Finance Corporations upto March, 1982 amounted to nearly Rs 1602 crores. In addition to the subsidy provided by the State Governments, they are also disbursing subsidies under the various Central Government Schemes to

the Small Scale Units. The amount of financial assistance reimbursed to the

State Governments|Union Territories are as follows:

S.No.	Scheme of Subsidy	Amount (Rupees lakhs)	Latest Year
1	Central Investment Subsidy to units (including small scale units) located in specified backward districts	2999.35	1982-83 upto 2nd March, 1983
2	Transport Subsidy		
3	Interest Subsidy	5.77	1981-82
4	Promotional Schemes under the DTC programme	98.34	1981-82

The credit facilities or enhancement in credit limits are decided on the merits of each case taking all relevant factors into account. As a result, the ceilings, selectively or generally are under periodical review.

SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNUPATI: Or the small scale units, I want to know what are the subsidies that are provided by the State and Central Governments, how much amount, and what are the schemes. Secondly, there is a ceiling to start such industries. I have got information that the composite loan is upto Rs. 25,000 only, and the short term loans are from Rs. 2 to Rs. 25 lakhs. Small scale units are in backward and forward areas. This must be changed from short term loans to medium term loans.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: So far as the small scale sector is concerned, Government is giving a packet of financial assistance in terms of loans and subsidies. If the hon. Member wants, I can give the whole list; I can read it out if you give me time or I can lay it on the Table of the House. As regards the other part, she referred to...

SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNUPATI: For the small scale units, there is a ceiling. The composite loan is upto Rs. 25,000 only. That is inadequate. They require more money.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: So far as the quantum of assistance is concern-

ed, this is a matter which is under the constant review of the Government, and as and when we find it necessary, we have been increasing the limits. If necessary, we will do it in future also.

SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNUPATI: Already in the reply it is said:

"The credit facilities or enhancement in credit limits are decided on the merits of each case taking all relevant factors into account."

We are not getting more than Rs. 25,000 for the small scale industry. I want to ask the Minister whether there is any idea to increase this amount for small scale industries because the costs of materials have increased nowadays.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: If the hon. Member is referring to the limit regarding the small scale industry, small scale units are those units which have an investment upto Rs. 20 lakhs. If the question is whether this limit is going to be increased, there is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

श्री हीरालाल आर० परमार : पिछले तीन सालों में जो लघु उद्योग स्थापित हुए हैं उनके बारे में क्या मंत्री महोदय को जानकारी है कि उनमें से 70 प्रतिशत सिक हो गये हैं। इनके सिक होने के क्या कारण

हैं और इसे बचाने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं ?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी) : मैं क्षमा चाहूंगा कि यह जानकारी हमारे पास नहीं है कि 70 फीसदी उद्योग बीमार पड़े है। रजिस्टर्ड और अन रजिस्टर्ड 9 लाख लघु उद्योग हैं और हमारे पास जो जानकारी है उसमें कहीं इतना प्रतिशत सिद्ध उद्योगों का नहीं है। यह बात नहीं है कि कुछ उद्योग बीमार है और उनको सुधारने का एक पूरा का पूरा ढांचा बनाया गया है। रिजर्व बैंक आफ इंडिया से लेकर स्टेट फाइनेंस कारपोरेशन तक उदकी सहायता के लिये पूरा ढांचा बनाया गया है। पहले भी मुझे यह जानकारी देने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ है। माननीय सदस्य चाहेंगे तो मैं उनको फिर से पूरा ब्यौरा दे सकता हूँ।

श्री भोक्कू राम जैन : अभी माननीय मंत्री महोदय बीमार लघु उद्योगों के बारे में बतला रहे थे। क्या उनको इल्म है कि लघु उद्योगों को जो फाइनेंशियल हेल्प मिलती है उसमें दो-तीन साल लग जाते हैं और तब तक ये और ज्यादा बीमार हो जाते हैं ?

श्री बीर भद्र सिंह : श्रीमान्, हमारी यह निरन्तर कोशिश रहती है कि लघु उद्योगों को जो भी आर्थिक सहायता दी जाए, चाहे बैंकों या दूसरे फाइनेंशियल इंस्टीट्यूशन्स के द्वारा, वह समय पर उनको उपलब्ध होनी चाहिये। ऐसा संभव है कि कई मामलों में इसमें देर होती होगी और हमारे ध्यान में भी यह बात लाई गई है। हम हमेशा बैंकों और फाइनेंशियल इंस्टीट्यूशन्स का इस और ध्यान आकृष्ट करते हैं कि ऐसे मामलों में उन्हें तेजी के साथ काम करना चाहिये।

Problems of Mini Cement Plants

*255. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many participants at a seminar on mini cement plants held at Bangalore complained of indifference by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India in financing their projects;

(b) if so, the details of the other requests made by them to effect improvement in mini cement plants and increase in production; and

(c) what steps are being taken to solve these problems of the mini cement plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Attention of the Government has been drawn to a news item which appeared in Hindustan Times of 31.1.1983 regarding alleged indifference by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) in the matter of financing mini cement plants. According to the information available with the Government no such seminar on mini cement plants has been convened.

However, at a meeting with the Director General, Cement Research Institute (CRI) at Bangalore some entrepreneurs expressed views to the effect that while there was no problem in obtaining technology from CRI, certain difficulties were being experienced in regard to obtaining assistance for setting up mini cement plants with CRI's V. S. K. Technology from the central financial institutions. The IDBI has since advised all credit institutions that in the case of projects based on CRI-VSK technology, it is not necessary for them to seek prior clearance of IDBI if the proposals otherwise strictly conform to the guidelines prescribed by them.

SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many applications for loan for mini cement plants are pending with the IDBI—