

transport and communication it is possible to locate industries in backward areas? If not what steps are taken to provide quick transport and communication to these areas?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM. This is the point which the hon. Member made. The infrastructure is the road and other communication systems. We are asking the State Governments to improve them but the picture is not so bleak. About 1,500 and odd applications have come from the backward areas and about 350 have been disposed of, others are being looked into. Still these have come only from a few States, not from all the States. That is the only difficulty.

New Licences for expansion of Cement Units in States

*27. **SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH** Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Central Government have issued new licences for the expansion of Cement Units in view of the requirements of Cement in the country; and

(b) the broad outlines of the decisions taken by Government for setting up Cement industries, State-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Subject to availability of the main raw material viz., cement grade limestone, it is open to any interested entrepreneur to set up a cement plant anywhere in the Country. Each application for a licence is considered on merits with reference to its economic viability, demand and consumption in the area, location, etc. A statement showing the new capacity approved statewise so far is placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-4191/73.*]

SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH: In this context, I would like to ask according to the statement that has been given to us, there have been some licences granted to the State of M.P. It is obvious from the statement that all these licences have been given to areas which are already comparatively well developed. It is also well-known that most of M.P.'s north-eastern part has got sufficient quantities of cement quality limestone. Those areas which are backward and which have limestone have not been given licence according to this statement. May I request the Government to consider using the licensing policy for developing backward areas for putting up cement plants in regions where cement-grade limestone is available in the backward regions?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): A licence can be given only on an application. If no application is made with reference to these areas, we cannot give licences to them. If there are areas where lime stone is available and no applications are coming from the private sector, certainly, we can ask the Cement Corporation of India to look into it, make an assessment of the availability and put in an application for that.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: In view of the scarcity of cement in the country that has led to black-marketing in the country, may I know from the hon. Minister what immediate steps are going to be taken to overcome scarcity and to stop black-marketing?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: We are giving licences to new units and we are identifying units which would go into production immediately. We are giving all the assistance possible. Unfortunately, it is not a question of capacity not being available now. We are unable to utilise the capacity because of the power scarcity in many parts of the country where cement plants are located. I have addressed

State Governments to give some priority to cement factories in view of the importance of cement for the building activity. I hope, it would be possible to get some priority so that production may be kept up.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: With regard to granting of licences for cement units in various States. I am going to categorise certain cement factories working in the country, particularly, the cement factories owned by Birlas in my constituency in Mysore State. We have been seeing all along that not only they are black-marketing in cement at the instance and connivance of their own agents who have been created for the purpose but they are also creating an artificial scarcity of cement in the country. They are abetting such selling of cement in black-market by their own agents in Mysore State. In spite of several complaints brought to the notice of this Ministry, no action has been taken so far. May I know whether the Government propose to take over such cement factories which is in the interest of our society? What is the reaction of the Government thereto?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I shall certainly look into the allegations made by the hon. Member.

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY: In view of the cement plants developing their own lime-stone mines, it is likely that about 10,000 workers working in lime-stone mines on the border of Orissa and Bihar are likely to be declared surplus and go out of job. Will the Ministry consider establishing a cement plant in that area so that these workers are not thrown out of employment?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: This is a specific question. I would like to have notice for it.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY: May I know what is the shortage of cement in the country? If there is no shortage, why are the prices soaring high? If there is shortage, may I know whether the

capacity is being fully utilised or not and, if not utilised, what action Government propose to take to fully utilise the capacity?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: As I explained, the difficulty is that there is power shortage now in many of the important States where cement plants are located. There is a power-cut to the extent of even 75 per cent. Therefore, the production of cement is very much affected. Unless we are able to utilise the capacity, naturally, the production will go down. We are trying to see how best to improve the situation.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB: May I know if it is a fact that licence was refused to Manipur and if so what is the reason for refusing a licence to start a cement factory?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: This is a specific question. The hon. Member may give notice of a separate question.

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पाण्डेय : जमा कि मंत्री जी ने कहा कि पावर शॉर्टेज की वजह से कहीं सीमेंट फॅक्टरी लगाने की सम्भावना होने हुये भी नहीं लगायी जा रही है। लेकिन मध्य प्रदेश ऐसा राज्य है जहा पावर शॉर्टेज नहीं है। मंदसौर जिला सीमेंट के लिये उपयुक्त माना गया है और केन्द्रीय सरकार ने घोषणा भी की थी कि सीमेंट कारखाना लगाया जायेगा। तो सीमेंट की स्थिति को देखने हुये वहां पर सीमेंट का कारखाना न लगाये जाने का क्या कारण है ? वहा कारखाने की स्थापना कब तक होगी ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: This is also another specific question. If the hon. Member is interested, he may write to me and I will give the information.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: May I know whether it is a fact that Government had inaugurated a new drive for the augmentation of the cement capacity in the country and in pursuance of that new drive, they had granted a large number of letters of intent and licences which have not been utilised, and if that is so, then we would like to know the reasons for the non-utilisation of the letters of intent and the licences which had been granted.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do not think the hon. Member's assumption is correct. As a matter of fact, the licences or the letters of intent which have already been given are being pursued. There has been some difficulty with regard to the production of the machinery. We are also taking care of that. There might be some odd cases perhaps. . .

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: For how long they have been there?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I cannot offhand say how long they have been there. We are pursuing the letters of intent to see that they go into production as early as possible.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: It has been said that wherever limestone is available and no private entrepreneur is coming to mine out of limestone and cement, Government will set up a factory in the public sector. Is it a fact that in the district of Kangra there is limestone available and no private entrepreneur is coming forward to mine that, and if so, will Government set up a factory in the public sector in that region? It is a backward region.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: If the hon. Member gives me the details which area he is referring to, I will certainly look into it.

Increase in Crimes in the Country

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*28. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:**
SHRI DEVINDER SINGH
GARCHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent survey has shown an upward trend in the crime figures in the country and the capital has topped the list of crime-ridden cities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made to secure the poplace against lawlessness all over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a). The crime statistics compiled by the Bureau of Police Research and Development for 1970 have shown an upward trend in the crime figures in the country.

The rate of crime per one lakh of population in Delhi in 1970 was 740.4 which was highest in the cities having a population of 10 lakhs and above.

(b) and (c). While no specific study about the reasons for this increase in crime figures has been conducted, such increase in crime would appear to be relatable among other things to the increase in stress and strain caused by increase in population, changes in socio-economic conditions, industrialisation, urbanisation etc.

Following steps have been taken to control the crime situation:—

(i) Modernisation of police forces by equipping them with greater scientific aids to investigation, by providing them with quicker communication facilities and by increasing their mobility;