

metres (16700 acres feet) assessed in the project report. A reliable estimate of the life of the Hirakud Reservoir as a result of siltation is possible when the silt settlement surveys, which, at present, are in preliminary stages are completed. Soil conservation measures have been taken in the catchment of the Hirakud dam to reduce the inflow of silt. It is also expected that the large number of sluices provided in the dam will assist in evacuating an appreciable part of the silt coming into the reservoir.

Demand for Increase in Price of Cement

*1108. SHRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any request from the representatives of the Cement Industry recently to increase the price of cement further ; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Report of Material Planning Cell in Ministry of Industrial Development on non-Ferrous Metals

*1109. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features revealed by the studies prepared by the Materials Planning Cell in his Ministry in respect of non-ferrous metals ;

(b) the arrangements made to meet the shortages of these scarce raw materials ; and

(c) the special planning made to produce them indigenously and the stage of their implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) The Materials Plann-

ing Cell in this Ministry has so far conducted studies in respect of zinc, nickel, tin, lead, copper, aluminium, sulphur and rock phosphate. The salient feature revealed by these studies is that the demand for all these non-ferrous metals is at present substantially more than their production in the country.

(b) Imports of scarce raw materials are being allowed to meet the shortages wherever necessary.

(c) Efforts are being made to maximize production of these metals indigenously. It is expected that by the end of the current plan, self-sufficiency will be achieved in aluminium industry and significant additions made in respect of copper, zinc, and nickel as a result of the various schemes undertaken by the Government.

Effect of Restriction on Licensing of New Cement Factories

*1110. SHRI K. K. RAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether at a recent meeting in his Ministry, it has been brought out that rigid restriction on the licensing of new cement factories in the States that have surplus production but are economically backward, has come in the way of producing more cement and development of those backward regions ;

(b) whether as a consequence, the cement to be manufactured by the end of Fourth Plan will fall short of internal demand by 19 million tonnes ; and

(c) if so, the proposals evolved to offset the effects of Government's previous policy ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The general policy of the Government in regard to grant of licence for cement has been to encourage the setting up of additional capacity in deficit areas and discourage coming up of such capacity in the surplus areas. However due recognition will also be given to applications received from backward regions, though there may be surplus production.