

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.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Steps are being taken to license substantial additional capacities for production of cement to meet the possible increased demand by the end of the 4th Plan.

Cases of Misconduct of Officials of Ticket Checking Branch Allahabad Division (Northern Railway)

4569. SHRI AZIZ IMAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of serious misconduct of officials of the Ticket Checking Branch of the Allahabad Division of the Northern Railway were destroyed by the interested officials in the Commercial Branch during the years 1968-70 with the motives of financial benefit and of hushing up of the cases ;

(b) if so, the number of such cases ,

(c) the extent of financial implications involved in these cases ; and

(d) the persons responsible for destroying the cases and the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). Three cases of suspected destruction of records have come to notice.

(c) This has not been possible of assessment in the absence of the papers.

(d) On the basis of an enquiry into the matter, disciplinary action is being taken against the Chief Inspector (tickets), Allahabad and a Clerk of the Commercial Branch of the Allahabad Division.

Vending and Refreshment Room Contracts

4570. SHRI AZIZ IMAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vending and refreshment room contracts given over Allahabad Division and over the Indian Railways separately during the years 1968-70, in which the amount of security was not deposited ;

(b) the revenue loss to the Railways on

account of non-deposit of these securities ; and

(c) the action taken against the defaulters including staff and contractors, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No vending or refreshment contract was allotted on the Allahabad Division and over the Indian Railways without taking security deposit during the years 1968-70.

(b) There has been no loss of revenue to the Railways on this account.

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (b) of the Question.

Misuse of Labour in Allahabad Division (Northern Railway) -

4571. SHRI AZIZ IMAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a lot of misuse of labour on the Indian Railways especially in the Allahabad Division of Northern Railway resulting in a national loss to the Exchequer ;

(b) if so, the measures adopted to eradicate this evil ;

(c) whether a specific case of misuse of labour was brought to the notice of the General Manager, Northern Railway at Mirzapur on 27th March, 1971 in a Union meeting by a Union official ; and

(d) if so, the action taken so far and the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). No, but complaints are received now and then alleging misuse of labour. These are investigated as and when received. A complaint of misuse of labour in the Allahabad Division is at present under investigation.

(c) No.

(d) Question does not arise.

Option for Pension by Railway Employees

4572. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railway employees were asked