

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री ब्रजलाल वर्मा) :
(क) मारुति छोटी कार परियोजना का राष्ट्रीयकरण किए जाने के बारे में कोई भी प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Shortage of Cement

*50. SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of cement in the open market;

(b) whether cement dealers are earning a premium on each bag;

(c) whether hike in prices of cement is due to lifting of emergency; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to relieve shortage of cement?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA): (a) to (d). With the production of cement during 1976 at 18.76 million tonnes and at 4.95 million tonnes during the first quarter of 1977 (i. e. January to March), the highest achieved so far, it will not be correct to hold that there is any general shortage of cement in the country. However, reports of non-availability of cement in the open market were received from various parts of the country in April, 1977, primarily due to heavy export in the month of March, 1977; power cuts imposed by the State Governments in major cement producing States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka etc. ranging 30 to 50 per cent; and an increase in the Government demand from 34 per cent in 1976 to 50 per cent in the first quarter of 1977. The reports of non-availability of cement in certain parts of the country are, therefore, not as a result of the lifting of emergency.

Reports of sale of cement at prices higher than those fixed by the Govern-

ment by certain unsocial elements have been received. It has been impressed upon the cement manufacturers that they have a moral responsibility to ensure that the dealers and stockists at the retail level do not resort to sale of cement at prices higher than those fixed by the State Government concerned. The manufacturers have also been requested to exercise a close scrutiny on the sale of cement by the dealers and stockists in this regard. The State Governments have been requested demi-officially to keep a close watch on the cement price within the State and take suitable action on the unsocial elements by random check etc. under the Essential Commodities Act and to ensure that cement is not sold at the retail level by the dealers and stockists at prices higher than those fixed by the State Government. The attention of the State Governments has also been drawn to the various provisions of the Licensing and Control Orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act by which they have power to fix the sale price, take possession, or sell stock, power of entry, search, seizure etc. The Cement Manufacturers' Association have also assured full co-operation on their part on the Government's directives for observing the above code of conduct. Wherever specific instances are brought to the notice of the Government, these are also investigated and suitable action as required under law is taken.

Efforts have been made to maintain optimum production by persuading the State Government to give more power to the cement factories in Tamil Nadu which have been subjected to maximum amount of power cut. The State Government of Kerala has been persuaded to give the maximum power to the State of Tamil Nadu. The Government indentors have been requested to stagger their off-take or not to draw any quantities of cement for building up stocks in the current quarter and to build up stocks only in the next quarter (i. e. July to September) when the production is expected to

improve with expected withdrawal of power cuts. The tempo of the construction activity by the general public is also expected to come down after June as a result of the on-set of monsoon. The State Trading Corporation through whom the export of cement is canalised has also been advised to export only the minimum quantity necessary to fulfil their irrevocable contractual obligations during the current quarter.

उत्तर प्रदेश में बिजली की कमी

* 51. श्री तेज प्रताप सिंह : क्या

ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश में अचानक अत्यधिक बिजली की कमी होने के क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार का विचार उक्त कमी को दूर करने के लिए तत्काल कुछ कार्यवाही करने का है ?

ऊर्जा मंत्री (श्री पी० रामचन्द्रन) :

(क) और (ख). उत्तर प्रदेश मार्च, 1976 से ही विद्युत् की कमी का सामना कर रहा है। लगातार चलने वाले उद्योगों की उच्चतम मांग पर विद्युत् की कटौती लागू की गई थी। री-रोलिंग मिलों, आर्क भट्टियों तथा लगातार न चलने वाले अन्य उद्योगों पर ये पाबन्दियाँ सायं 6.30 से सायं 9.00 बजे तक लागू थीं। कुछ उद्योगों में छुट्टियों के दिन अलग अलग कर दिए गए थे। ऊर्जा की उपलब्धता को ध्यान में रखे बिना ही प्रणाली में नए कनेक्शनों की वृद्धि के कारण जनवरी, 1977 से थिथ और खराब हो गई। फरवरी तथा मार्च, 1977 के महीनों के दौरान कुछ ताप विद्युत् उत्पादन युनिटों की नियोजित अनु-रक्षण के लिए नदी (आउटेज) के बाँध तथा अन्य युनिटों की जबरन बंदी (आउटेज) की उच्च दर के कारण थिथि बदतर हो गई थी। इन सबके फल वक्ष जलाशय खाली हो

गए। चालू किए गए नए युनिटों से ऊर्जा की उपलब्धता भी प्राणा से कम रही। नदी में कम पानी आने के कारण यमुना तथा रामगंगा जल विद्युत् के द्रो से उत्पादन बहुत कम रहा। ऊर्जा के उपभोग पर पाबंदियाँ अप्रैल, 1977 के पहले सप्ताह से लागू की गई थीं ; जबकि थिथि पहले से भी काफी गम्भीर थी। बदरपुर की कुछ युनिटों की नदी (आउटेज) के कारण वहाँ से दी जाने वाली सहायता पर प्रभाव पड़ा। जबरन बंदी (फोसंडा आउटेज) वाले सभी युनिटों को पुनः चालू करने तथा दीर्घकालीन बंदी (आउटेज) वाले युनिटों को पुनः चालू करने के लिए तथा चालू किए गए नए युनिटों के कार्य निष्पादन में थिथरता लाने के लिए भारत हवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स लिमिटेड तथा उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य बिजली बोर्ड ने जोरदार कार्रवाई की है। बदरपुर से उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य बिजली बोर्ड की विद्युत् प्रणाली को मिलने वाली सहायता इस महीने के अन्त तक आंशिक रूप से बहाल करने के लिए भी कदम उठाए गए हैं।

Conversion of A.I.R. and T.V. into Autonomous Corporations

*52. SHRI R. K. MHALGI:

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which Government propose to convert A.I.R. and T.V. into autonomous corporations;

(b) the difficulties in doing so soon; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to overcome them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c). The Government is proposing to set-up a Group of officials and non-officials to prepare a Working paper for suggesting recommendations on the grant of autonomy to A. I. R. and T. V.