

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Setting up of Mini Cement Plants

***25. SHRI CHITTUBHAI SAMIT:**

SHRI SARAT KAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps for encouraging entrepreneurs to set up mini-cement plants in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details regarding the policy of Government while sanctioning the quota to the States?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) No State-wise quota for mini-cement plants is under consideration.

Use of Alcohol as Fuel

***26. SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR:** Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the use of alcohol as fuel for internal combustion engines;

(b) the advances made in this direction in foreign countries; and

(c) the reasons why similar steps have not been taken in India in the interests of petrol conservation?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

It is known that alcohol blended with petrol upto 20 per cent can be used for internal combustion engine without significant changes in engine design. Whilst many countries are engaged in

exploratory work in this field, Philippines and Brazil have embarked on major programme for large scale use of Ethyl alcohol mixed with petrol for internal combustion engine in transportation system. The alcohol for this is produced by fermentation using sugar cane/and/or molasses. If alcohol alone is to be used as fuel for engines (without mixing petrol) the engine design would require substantial modification. Research and development work on this is in progress, at several technological institutions in India.

The only cost-competitive method of producing alcohol for this purpose is through fermentation, at present primarily based on cane sugar/molasses. For this it would become necessary to use fertile agricultural land and substantial quantity of water for cane growing for alcohol production which throws up important policy questions pertaining to land use between energy plantations and food crops. Need therefore exists to develop technology for production of alcohol using agricultural residues as raw material e.g. cotton wastes, bagasse, rice husk and forest wastes. Experimental work on this is in progress in India and a National Steering Committee exists to examine these issues in detail.

Shortage of wool for carpet Industry

***27. SHRI KUMARI ANATHAN:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the hand-knitted carpet industry is in the grip of a severe crisis due to shortage of wool; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to supply adequate quantities of wool to the country's carpet industry which has so far been a growing export business?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a). Although there is no severe crisis as such, yet the industry has been facing some shortage of raw wool.

(b) For ensuring adequate supply of wool to the hand-knotted carpet industry, steps have been taken for importation of good quality wool, restriction on the export of indigenous wool and discouraging further expansion of machine made carpet industry. Stepping up production of wool within the country is also under consideration through the Agricultural Ministry.

All India Muslim Conference

*30. SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an All India Muslim Conference was held in Lucknow in the last week of December, 1978;

(b) if so, the decisions taken; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): A statement indicating important decisions taken and the Government's reaction thereto is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Decisions taken at the All India Muslims Conference.	Government's Reaction
1 Reservation for Muslims in all elective bodies proportionate to their population.	Government is against any such reservation
2 Reservation for Muslims in all appointments and posts under the Central as well as State Governments in proportion to their population.	There should be adequate representation of all sections of the population in Govt. and other services.
3 The Provincial Armed Constabulary should be disbanded.	It is for the U.P. Govt. to consider this demand.
4 The RSS and Sevika Sang be banned.	The activities of these organisation have not come to any such adverse notice as to call for their banning under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 under which alone any organisation can be banned.
5 Immediate release of all Muslims who were arrested in the wake of recent Aligarh and Andhra Pradesh riots.	This matter can only be considered by the respective State Governments.
6 Full compensation to those who sustained losses and to the dependents of those killed during communal disturbances at rates payable to air crash victims.	State Govts. have been providing financial assistance to the families of those killed or to those who sustained injuries. It is not possible to accept that compensation to the families of those killed should be made at rates payable to air crash victims.
7 Punitive taxes be imposed upon members of the majority community in riot affected areas.	Laws provide for imposition of collective fines. It is for the State Governments to consider taking recourse to such action.
8 Suitable legislation be enacted forthwith to restore Muslim character of Aligarh Muslim University.	The Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Bill, 1978 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12th May, 1978. Further discussion on this Bill will take place during the current session.