

Ltd and Reliance Industries for this project. They are under the consideration of the Government.

**SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :** Sir, I request the Minister to tell us whether our country is facing a serious shortage in the supply of HDP, LLDEP, and PVC. And because of that shortage, whether we are forced to spend our hard-earned hard currency. In view of that, I would also like to know whether the country and the Government are concerned for the immediate setting up of petro-chemical complex to save our foreign exchange. In this context, whether it is in the national interest to keep Haldia petro-chemical project pending for seven years and still it is not commissioned? It should have been commissioned a few years back. What is the reason? I would like to know categorically whether there is a political motivation or whether because it is in West Bengal, they are not doing it.

I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister. He wrote to me that it is still under consideration. He is now saying that it was cleared. I would like to know when it was cleared and when it will be commissioned.

**SHRI J. VENGAL RAO :** About Haldia, all the Ministry clearances are over. The implementation portion is with the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation....(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** The Prime Minister has written that it is still under consideration....(*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** Why can't you listen? Please sit down. When he says that it has been cleared, what does matter, whether cleared today or yesterday.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** Why it was pending for seven years.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, though it was proposed to set up a petro-chemical complex in Bihar, yet the proposal has not been cleared so far,

May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the reaction of the Government in this regard because no final decision in the matter has so far been taken. I want to know whether the Hon. Minister proposes to grant a petro-chemical complex in Bihar or the proposal as such has been shelved?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Is it a question related to Bihar?

[*English*]

**SHRI J. VENGAL RAO :** There is a proposal for Barauni. We are sending a team in the first week of April....(*Interruptions*)

#### Capacity Utilisation of Cement Industry

\*501. **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cement industry has lately been working at a very low capacity utilisation of 70 per cent ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the capacity utilisation of the industry ?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) :** (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) : The overall capacity utilisation of cement industry in the last 2 years i.e. 1986 and 1987 has been 77 per cent and 71 per cent of the operational capacity respectively. The capacity utilisation in cement industry would have been better but for the power cuts imposed on the cement industry by the State Electricity Boards in the States of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in particular.

(c) The Industry has been encouraged to go in for captive power generation by setting up of captive DG sets and appropriate relief is allowed by reducing the levy quota to partly neutralise additional cost

involved in using power generated at higher cost from the captive DG sets.

[Translation]

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no coherence between the question I have asked and the reply the Hon. Minister has given. I have asked as to what are the reasons for the low capacity utilisation and what steps are being taken to improve the position. I have always been told that because of the power cuts, capacity utilisation has been low. In reply to this Question earlier, it was stated that the Government was going in for captive power plants but there being no progress in this regard, capacity utilization has been low. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the number of persons who have sought permission to set up captive power generating sets specially when Government has reduced levy quota and what is the progress in this regard. Cement Association has given a memorandum to the Government stating that the production of cement is more but the demand is less. The cement is not available to the people in villages and if it is available it is found to be adulterated and filled in poor quality bags. Not only that, cement prices are going up. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is a shortage of cement in the country or the Government proposes to sell it at higher rates? Is it also true that the cement dealers are requesting the Government to lift more cement from them and supply it to the irrigation department at lower cost. I want the Hon. Minister to reply to all these points.

[English]

**SHRI J. VENGAL RAO :** There is power shortage especially in Karnatka and Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh, the power cut is 80 per cent. There are so many steel plants. In 1985, the installed capacity is 44.08 million tonnes and the actual production is 32.08 million tonnes. In 1986, the installed capacity is 51.45 million tonnes and the production is 35.28 million tonnes and in 1987, the installed capacity is 56.31 million tonnes and the production is 39.03 million tonnes. Sir, without power, how can they expect production?

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :** In part 'C' you have said that those who go in for captive power generation will be provided relief by reducing the levy quota to partly neutralise additional cost. What happened about that? The association represented to the Government to bring in surplus and the Government says that there is no demand and the villagers are saying that there is no cement and they are purchasing at higher cost and adulteration is much more. You are not replying to the main part of the question.

**SHRI J. VENGAL RAO :** The question is cement and steel plants have been working at a very low capacity utilisation and the reasons therefore and the steps taken to improve the capacity utilisation of the industry. He is asking the allocation. How can I say about the allocation?

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :** You read your reply laid on the Table of the House. See the last sentence. Which you have mentioned in your reply. What steps you have taken and how many units are going in for captive power generation by setting up captive DG sets?

**SHRI J. VENGAL RAO :** We have been encouraging those people who want to set up captive DG sets.

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :** Mr. Speaker Sir, I want your protection because the association says in its representation about the demand and supply; supply is much more and production is more and utilisation is less. Whether it is a fact or not? Only the power constraint is there for purposes of production.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Setting up of Manufacturing Units in Kerala

\*492. **SHRI K. KUNJAMBU :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :