

Allotment of Foodgrains to States

4888. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the monthly allotment of foodgrains and the actual withdrawal by different States and Union Territories for the public distribution system during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : The required information is given in the statements I to VI

[Placed in Library. See LT No. 4168/871

Sickness in Soda Ash Industry

4889. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the soda ash industry is passing through a severe crisis;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to assist this industry to improve its performance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAIN-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) : No, Sir.

(b) and (c) : Do not arise.

Implementation of Maintenance Management System Developed by NTPC

4890. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the implementation of the maintenance management system developed at a cost of rupees four crores during 1982-84 by the National Thermal

Power Corporation, after the successful implementation of the same in Singrauli Plant;

(b) the recommendations made by the 15th National Convention of the Indian Institution of Plant Engineers held in Madras in January, 1987; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) The Maintenance Management System was developed by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) with the assistance of M/s. British Electricity International (BEI) of U.K. as one of seven work plans. The assistance was in terms of provision of expertise in man-months and services etc. Maintenance Management Systems have since been developed and implemented, apart from the Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station at the other three operating Stations of the NTPC at Korba, Tamagundam and Farakka. M/s. BEI would also review the implementation.

(b) and (c). The 15th National Convention of the Indian Institution of Plant Engineers held in Madras in January 1987 stressed that Maintenance Management, in a broader sense, should adopt a management culture to cover management of all capital assets such as plant and machinery, building, services etc. so as to obtain optimal output in the form of availability, reliability, performance, capacity and life of power plants. It is expected that action to improve the existing system would be initiated by the participating delegates/undertakings to the convention in the light of the discussions which took place.

Video Conferences

4891 DR. C. P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to provide the facility of video conferences through telecommunication network; and

(b) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a)
Yes Sir, in due course.

(b) Feasibility studies have been undertaken for providing Video Conferencing studios in the four metropolitan cities and interconnecting them over the microwave video channels. The implementation of such a project will depend upon availability of resources for Telecommunications.

Studies on Occupational Health
Hazard by BHEL, Tiruchi

4892. SHRI V.S. KIRSHNA IYER :
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of studies on Occupational Health hazards made by the Occupational Health Service Department of BHEL, Tiruchi;

(b) the results of such studies; and

(c) the action taken by Government to implement the recommendations of such studies to eliminate the sources of health hazards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : (a) to (c) : Occupational Health Service, a UN aided Institute, is located at Tiruchi. It carries out studies relating to occupational health hazards in work environment. In 1986, it carried out 225 studies for BHEL, Tiruchi. In most cases, the work environment was found to be satisfactory but in some cases, safe limit values in noise and dust hazards were exceeded. The recommendations given for BHEL, Tiruchi have been implemented.

Liberalisation of Licensing
Policy

4893. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA
REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to further liberalise the licensing policy for industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what way such a licensing policy would help the industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF
INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM):

(a) to (c) : Liberalisation of the Licensing policy and procedure is a continuous process and in pursuance of this policy a number of measures have already been announced by Government such as delicensing of 27 groups of industries and 82 bulk drugs and formulations, broad banding of 32 industries, reendorsement of capacity with reference to minimum economic scales of operation, revision of Appendix—I industries, review of industries reserved for exclusive development in small scale sector, adoption of a simplified procedure for recognition of capacity arising out of modernisation/replacement/renovation of plant and machinery etc. These measures are directed towards removing the irritants in achieving a rapid industrial through in the country.

Regional wood Energy Development
Programme

4894. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI :
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Regional Wood Energy Development Programme,

(b) in what way the said programme will improve the socioeconomic conditions of people of rural communities; and

(c) the details of progress made in the initial stages of the implementation of the programme ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) : The Regional Wood Energy Development Programme (RWEDP) is aimed at promoting exchange of information, materials and expertise