

be laid on the Table of the House. The requisite information is to be furnished by the UPSC as applications from candidates for selection for admission to NDA are invited by them.

Increase of cement price by Rs. 20 per tonne

300. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed the Cement industry to increase the price of cement by Rs. 20 per tonne;

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

(c) what will be the estimated total gain of the private cement producers by this step taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI) (a) to (c). Shortage in the supply of cement had developed on account of higher demand for consumption for Public Works as well as for Agriculture, Industry and Housing. Substantial quantities of cement were also required to repair ravages caused by the cyclones in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Government therefore decided to permit the import of about one million tonnes of cement to meet the additional demand. As the landed cost of the imported cement is higher than the cost of indigenous cement, Government decided to pool the prices and increase the F.O.R. destination price of cement by Rs. 17 per tonne w.e.f. 7th January, 1978, so that together with local levies, the retail price did not increase by more than Rs. 20/- per tonne or Re. 1 per bag. The increase in f.o.r. destination prices do not benefit the cement manufacturers as there has been no increase in the ex-works or retention prices of cement.

Supply of coal to Bokaro Steel Plant

301. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item published in 'Business Standard', Calcutta in its issue dated the 12th January, 1978 regarding bad supply of coal to Bokaro Steel Plant threatening closure of blast furnace;

(b) whether Government have made necessary enquiries in the matter;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to ensure adequate quality of coal to the steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) to (d). Government have enquired into the matter. Some coal with high ash content was despatched to the Bokaro Steel Plant on account of certain defects developed by the coal washery at Kathara. The technical problems have since been rectified and the quality of washed coal has greatly improved. Constant watch is being maintained on the output of all the coal washeries with a view to maintain the desired standard of washed coal to be supplied to the steel mills. Quality control measures have been adopted at various stages of coal supplies to the steel plants.

दूरदर्शन के परिवहन-यूनिटों के कार्य-करण की जांच

302. श्री रामप्रसाद देशमुख : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री 16 नवम्बर, 1977 के प्रतारंकित प्रश्न संख्या 522 के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दूरदर्शन के परिवहन यूनिटों के प्रत्येक अधिकारी के विरुद्ध की जा रही

विभागीय कार्यवाही इस समय किस चरण में है ; और

(ख) उक्त विभागीय कार्यवाही के आधार पर प्रत्येक अधिकारी को क्या दण्ड दिया गया है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण अडवाणी) : (क) जैसा कि उपरि उल्लिखित अतारांकित प्रश्न के उत्तर में पहले ही बताया जा चुका है , एक अराज-पत्रित कर्मचारी के विरुद्ध अनुशासनिक कार्रवाई पूरी हो चुकी है। शेष आठ कर्मचारियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही चल रही है ।

(ख) उपरि उल्लिखित अराजपत्रित कर्मचारी को अगले निचले रैंक में करने का दण्ड दिया गया है ।

Incentives to Cement Units

303. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDA RAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to give incentives to Cement Units to help them increase utilisation of existing capacity; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b). The proposal to give incentives to cement units to help them increase utilization of existing capacity is being examined by the Government.

Foreign investment for the rapid Economic Development

304 SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the policy followed by the present Government for permitting

foreign investment in the interests of rapid economic development; and

(b) the particulars of foreign investment proposed to be permitted in the near future and the nature of the industries in which foreign participation is likely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b). Government's policy towards permitting foreign investment is selective. Foreign investment is permitted only in fields of high priority, export oriented ventures, and in other areas where the import of foreign technology is considered necessary and is in the national interest.

Proposals for foreign investment will be considered in the light of the above policy.

Disintegration of Nuclear Powered Soviet satellite

305 SHRI R. KOLANATHAIVELU: SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR:

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reactions of Government in regard to the recent disintegration of a nuclear powered Soviet Satellite and the implications of hazard to humanity by such satellites; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to bring about a ban on satellites using reactors?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). Government has no information other than what has appeared in various newspapers regarding the reported crash of the Soviet Satellite in Canadian territory. In the absence of any authentic information, it is not possible to make any comments on the implications of this incident.