

Production of 'Activated Carbon' from Cashewnut Shells

8512. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 1,00,000 tonnes of cashew nut shells are used as fuel at present in the country;

(b) whether the Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad has successfully evolved a process to produce 'Activated Carbon' an expensive item, from cashew-nut shells; and

(c) whether the Government have any plans to make available this technology to industry so as to make the cashew crop more remunerative and help increase production of activated carbon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) No authentic information is available.

(b) and (c). The Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad has only carried out some laboratory scale experiments on making decolourising grade activated carbon from cashew-nut shell. Further work on large scale is needed before the technical and economic viability of the process can be established.

Liquidation of Private Cement Factory at Dadri

8513. SHRI DHARM VIR VASISHT:
SHRI MANOHAR LAL SAINI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had under consideration liquidation of the private cement factory at Dadri (Haryana); and

(b) if so, reasons for the same with alternative proposals, if any, to give employment to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). Government have decided, after a review of the unsatisfactory financial position of the Company and the impracticability of taking it over, that the Cement Controller should move the Court under the relevant provisions of the Companies Act for winding up of the Company for non-payment of Cement Regulation dues. The Cement Controller has been requested to take appropriate follow up action. The Government of Haryana is being requested to assist in the rehabilitation of the affected workers through alternative employment.

Discussion on State Plans in State Legislatures

8514. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments have asked to the Central Government that the proposals for state plans are to be discussed in the State Assembly before they are submitted to the Planning Commission;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the state plans are finalized and approved by the Planning Commission and then discussed on the floor of the Legislative Assembly before their execution; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) are in negative, in what manner the representatives of the State Legislatures are involved in plan processing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The State Plans are included in the State Budgets and discussed in the Legislative Assemblies.

(c) The views expressed by the State Legislators on the floor of the House as well as outside are kept in view by the State Governments while preparing their Plans.