

High level working group on Cement

6998. SHRI RAMJI BHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report/interim report or recommendations of the high level working group/Committee appointed for Cement Industry for the prices, distribution, freight and location etc.

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, when the said reports are likely to be submitted;

(c) places and organisations, institutes etc.,

(d) the details of the expenses incurred on the said Committee; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken to implement the said recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) and (b). The report of the Working Group is expected to be received shortly.

(c) The Working Group has not made any visit as stated.

(d) No expenditure has been incurred on the Working Group.

(e) Does not arise.

Soviet Assistance in Modernising PEPA Mill

6999. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Union has agreed to assist India in modernising the NEPA Mill in paper sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the offer and the protocol bilateral agreements signed during the visit of the Soviet delegation of Paper Experts led by G. F. Fronin Deputy Minister of Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) and (b). A working programme of cooperation in the field of the pulp and paper industry has been drawn up between India and the USSR. The programme envisages cooperation in construction and modernisation of pulp and paper mills, scientific and research work, participation in setting up pulp and paper plants in third countries and the possibilities of exchange of certain pulp and paper products and other materials. As an example in the cooperation for modernisation and reconstruction of existing paper mills in India, it was agreed that the possibility of rebuilding and modernisation of Nepa Mills could be studied.

Rise in prices of Cosmetic and Soap

7000. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the cosmetic and soap manufacturing units have arbitrarily increased the price of their products during the period January to May, 1980; and

(b) if so, the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) and (b). There is no price control in respect of cosmetics and soap. No data on prices of cosmetics are maintained. In the case of soap, however, there has been an increase in prices. This price increase is mainly attributable to increase in costs of inputs.

Most Backward Districts in Tamil Nadu

7001. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in Tamil Nadu which are classified as most backward district in industry; and

(b) whether Government are considering to classify Kanyakumari district as a most backward district in industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) The following 9 districts of Tamil Nadu have been identified as industrially backward eligible for concessional finance facilities from the All India Term Lending Financial Institutions:—

Dharmapuri, Kanyakumari, Madurai, North Arcot, Ramanathapuram, South Arcot, Thanjavur, Tirchirappalli and Pudukkottai districts.

Out of these 9 districts, the following 3 'areas'/tracts comprising 33 taluks have been further identified for benefit under the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme:—

Area I:—Comprising 12 taluks (including Sub Taluks) viz., Ramanathapuram, Madukulathur, Sivaganga, Parmakudi, Thiruvadani, Karaikudi and Thirupathur Taluks (from Ramanathapuram District), Melur Taluks (from Madurai District), Pudukkottai, Thirumayam, Alamguli and Kulathur Taluks (from Pudukkottai district).

Area II:—Comprising 11 Taluks viz., Dharmapuri, Palacode, Hosur, Denkanikottah, Krishnagiri, Uthangarai, Harur (from Dharmapuri district) Tirupattur, Vaniyambadi, Vellore, Wallajapet (From North Arcot District)

Area III:—Comprising 10 Taluks viz. Aruppuoddottai, Sattur, Virudhunagar, Srivilliputhur, Rajapalayam (from West Ramanathapuram of Ramanathapuram District) Thirumangalam, Usilampatti, Nilakothai, Dindigul and Veda sandur (from Madurai district).

(b) The National Committee on the Development of Backward Areas set up by the Planning Commission is expected to submit its recommenda-

tions by the end of this year an appropriate strategy or strategies for effectively tackling the problems of backward areas. Any change in the existing list of areas and pattern of incentives would depend upon the report of this Committee.

Under Trial Women and Children under Confinement

7002. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of undertrials undergoing confinement for over 20 months, as on June, 1980 and the number of women and children amongst them in each Union Territory and what are the grounds for detention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Large and Small Scale Industries in Northern and Southern States

7003. SHRI ERA ANBARASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria being followed in setting up of large scale and small scale industries in different States;

(b) whether it is a fact that many large scale industries were started only in Northern States in India;

(c) what is the total number of large scale and small scale industries (under public sector) set up so far in Northern States in India; and

(d) what is the total number of large and small scale industries set up under public sector in southern States in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) Entrepreneurs are free to set up industries large-scale or small-scale, anywhere in the country. Government do not lay down any criteria for