

(d) The plant and machinery specified in answer to (b) above will vest with and be accounted by the new Company which is being incorporated.

**Selection of Officers of I.S.S. Grade III of Ministry of Health for assignment in W.H.O. Geneva**

311. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some officers of the Indian Statistical Service (Grade III) working in the Ministry of Health have been selected for assignment in W.H.O., Geneva during the current half-year;

(b) if so, their particulars and the manner of selection;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of these officers are due to retire within a year or so;

(d) if so, the reasons for not selecting relatively younger officers in Grades II and III of the Indian Statistical Service who have still to go for a number of years; and

(e) whether any guidelines have been issued by his Ministry in the matter of selection of officers for foreign short term assignments; and if so, what?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Yes. "The nodal Ministries concerned with the UN organisations may themselves permit an officer to accept a short term assignment for a period not exceeding six months subject to clearance from cadre controlling authority".

**Protection of environment from Industrial pollution**

312. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any plan of action for the protection of natural environment in the face of grave threat from industrial pollution and commercial exploitation of forests;

(b) if so, the broad features of this programme;

(c) if no, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the likely date by which it would be chalked out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b). The Government of India constituted a High Level Committee in February 1980 for recommending legislative measures and administrative machinery for ensuring environmental protection. The Committee submitted its report on 15th September 1980. It has made several recommendations for ensuring environmental protection, against industrial pollution and exploitation of forests. One of the main recommendations of the Committee was that a Department of Environment should be set up in the Government of India. The Department of Environment has since been created from November, 1, 1980. Other recommendations of the Committee have been remitted to the newly created Department for being put up to Government in appropriate form for necessary approval and implementation. This is currently being done. The present activities of the Department of Environment include; environmental appraisal or major development projects (hydel & thermal power projects, river valley projects, chemical/petrochemical industries etc); promotion of environmental research; the establishment and management of Biosphere Reserves; creation of environmental awareness and

furthering environmental educations; action for ecological restoration; ecological mapping and environmental monitoring. An amount of Rs. 40 crores has been earmarked in the Fifth Plan (1980—85) for plan activities in this area. The Central Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution is responsible for controlling water pollution due to industries and other causes. Air Pollution control measures are proposed to be taken up after the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Bill is enacted.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) This is a continuing programme which will gain further stimulus and receive support after the recommendations of the Report of the High Level Committee are processed and accepted by the Government for implementation.

#### Setting up of Mini Cement Plant in Borbil, Orissa

313. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up Mini-cement plants in the country during 1981-82 financial year;

(b) if so, the number of such plants proposed to be set up in Orissa;

(c) whether Government have any plan to set up some mini cement plants in Borbil Mining area; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) and (b). The Cement Corporation of India do not have any proposal for setting up of mini cement plants in the country during 1981-82. The Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa Ltd. have obtained a letter of intent in April, 1980 for setting up of a mini cement plant at Kutra-Kiringsera (Kutra-Block), Tehsil-Bajgangapur District-Sundergarh, Orissa for an annual capacity of 66,000 tonnes.

(c) No application for grant of a letter of intent for setting up a mini cement plant in Borbil Mining area has been received.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Capacity utilisation of Cement Industry

314. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a plan to raise the capacity of cement plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the existing annual total capacity of these plants and the expansion contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) It is the policy of the Govt. to encourage setting up of additional capacities by way of expansion of the existing cement plants in country.

(b) & (c). The present installed capacity as on date is 26.29 million tonnes. 5.46 million tonnes of additional capacity is proposed to be achieved by way of substantial expansion of the existing units.

#### Setting up of Science Centres

315. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up science centres in the backward areas of the country;

(b) whether backward areas where these will be set up have been identified; and

(c) if so, the names of these places and main functions of these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND