

योजना के अलावा पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में उद्योग स्थापित करने के लिये अग्रतर रियायत देने के संबंध में इस मंत्रालय में इस समय न तो कोई नई योजनाएँ विचाराधीन हैं और न ही इसके बारे में कोई विशेष प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं। हाँ, 10% केन्द्रीय सहायता योजना 1971 के हकदार जिलों की संख्या में वृद्धि करने तथा उन औद्योगिक एककों को जिनकी कुल अचल पूंजी निवेश 50 लाख रु० से अधिक नहीं है; 10% की केन्द्रीय सहायता की पात्रता बढ़ाने का हाल ही में निश्चय किया गया है।

Short supply of Cement in Kerala

3247. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cement is in short supply in Kerala and because of that great difficulties are being faced in the constructions of many Government and private buildings in Kerala.

(b) if so, whether the Kerala Government have sent any request in this regard;

(c) whether shortage of cement in Kerala is due to short supply of wagons; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken to remove the shortage of cement in Kerala?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRISIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b), No Sir. The average monthly despatches of cement to Kerala State during 1972 is 58490 tonnes against 49984 tonnes in 1971. But, still, due to increased demand for cement, certain complaints regarding inadequate supplies were received from Government/Quasi Government indentors.

(c) and (d). The supply position suffered somewhat due to movement difficulties and strike in Madukkarai cement factory, one 41LSS.72—7.

of the factories supplying cement to the State of Kerala and general dis-inclination of the Government indentors to receive supplies by road. Movement of cement by railways was also affected due to the higher priority given to the movement of food-grains from the North during April-August, 1972. Rail movement on the Ghat Section was also temporarily stopped due to a land slide in the month of May.

To overcome the inadequate supply of wagons and to improve supply position, permission has been granted in appropriate cases to factories situated in distant areas to arrange supplies even if necessary over dearer routes at higher freight. More liberal movement by road has also been permitted. Creation of dumps at Chonganachari and Quilon and transport of cement by rail-cum-road or by road has also been permitted. It has also been decided to reimburse the producers upto 125% of the corresponding rail freight for transport of cement to destinations beyond 100 kms. The Railways have also been requested to improve the availability of wagons to various factories for the transport of cement.

Seminar Organized by Indian Space Research Organization

3248. SHRI VEKARIA : Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Seminar organized by the Indian Space Research Organization was held in the first week of August, and

(b) if so, the points discussed and the conclusions arrived at?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI NIDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The points discussed covered the following six areas :

- (i) Communication
- (ii) Meteorology
- (iii) Earth Resource Survey
- (iv) Geodesy
- (v) Navigation
- (vi) Space Sciences

Broadly the recommendations which emerged from the discussions at the Seminar were :

- (i) *Communications* : The need of Satellite Communications for reaching the masses of the country seems appropriate. Taking into account the benefits of the modern medium of television for development purposes, several alternative configurations were considered for a Communication Satellite for the adoption of a hybrid integrated arrangement of terrestrial broad band microwave links and TV transmit along with satellite coverage facilities for national linkage as an optimum system.
- (ii) *Meteorology* : Weather phenomena have to be studied and monitored and the latest data collection methods studied which will eventually improve forecasting capabilities. The establishment of a National Satellite Meteorological Data Centre has been recommended.
- (iii) *Earth Resource Survey* : The new techniques of remote sensing have to be developed and passed on to the users so that economic benefits can be derived. Successful implementation of a national programme of space technology including remote sensing techniques can help provide the necessary information leading to substantial economic benefits.

(iv) *Geodesy* : To meet the needs of Geodesy, the new technique of satellite geodesy should be employed.

(v) *Navigation* : Space applications for navigation are likely to be more in the nature of a spin-off from the efforts for satellite communications.

(vi) *Space Sciences* : Several recommendations have been made including the use of satellites for conducting aeronomy experiments particularly aimed at understanding the equatorial anomaly of the ionosphere and the electroject and for carrying out experiments in astronomy.

The detailed recommendations emerging from the Seminar will receive detailed and careful scrutiny of the Department of Space for enabling the recommendations to be translated into concrete proposals.

Utilisation of Salt Cess Fund for Gujarat State

3249. SHRI VEKARIA :
SHRI D. P. JADEJA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat contributes about 60 per cent of the total salt produced in the country and pays quite a substantial amount to the Central Exchequer every year by way of cess;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat had not been given assistance from the Salt Cess Fund and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the purpose for which the cess is utilised and the criteria observed for distributing the cess proceeds?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.