

**Setting up of Cement Units in Joint Sector in Cooperation with Big Business Houses**

330. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought the Cooperation of some big business houses in the country in setting up Cement manufacturing units in the joint sector;

(b) if so, the reasons that prompted Government to seek such co-operation from big business houses; and

(c) whether there has been any favourable response from the parties concerned?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Consumer Goods Industry in Public Sector**

331. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision on the proposal to set up consumer goods industries in the public sector; and

(b) if so, the outlines of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). It is one of Government's objectives to expand and extend the role of the public sector into new fields, including production of mass-consumption goods in which significant production gaps are likely to develop in the future. Co-operatives and small and medium

entrepreneurs will also be encouraged to participate in the production of mass-consumption goods.

**Foreign Assistance sought for developing Space Technology and Research**

332. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has sought assistance from foreign countries in developing space technology and research;

(b) if so, the names of countries from where assistance is expected; and

(c) what exactly is the assistance sought for?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (c). India has collaborative programmes with a number of countries including the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Japan, U.K., U.S.A. and U.S.S.R.

The collaborative programme cover joint experiments from Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station to study upper atmosphere, ionosphere and conduct other scientific experiments. India is also co-operating with the Hydro Meteorological Department of USSR on meteorological studies. With the U.S.A., cooperative studies have been made in the past about the use of Communications Satellite for Television and Telecommunication in India. There is an agreement with NASA to conduct the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment in 1975. The entire ground work including the earth station, television sets, programmes, etc. are being developed by India. Collaboration with France has included the fabrication under licence in India of Centaure sounding rockets.