

Meeting on cement industry

1290. SHRI M. PALANIYANDI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had convened a meeting recently to study the causes of sickness in cement industries, including the supply of raw materials to the Cement Industry; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) No meeting was convened to study specifically the causes of sickness in cement industry. However, meetings concerning cement on the following were recently held:—

(i) Meeting held on 13 August, 1986 to review the production performance of individual cement units where some units had expressed doubts about adequate availability of raw materials like coal and power. The producers have assured that they will strive to achieve the targetted production for the current year. Their problems have already been taken up with the Ministries of Energy and Railways.

(ii) Meeting held on 4 October, 1986 in Madras was to consider the problems of cement units in Tamil Nadu in regard to non-renewal of existing leases and delay in the grant of fresh leases of limestone. The State Government has been impressed upon to renew the mining leases for Cement Industry, wherever necessary, expeditiously.

Action plan to improve productivity

1291. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that National Productivity Council

has advised the industries to prepare action plans to improve productivity;

(b) if so, what are the full details of the guidelines issued by the NPC in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the production in the various industries is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir. NPC does not directly advise industries to prepare action plan. It is an autonomous organisation and provides training, consultancy and research services on request. It creates awareness about improving productivity through seminars and conferences and takes up productivity improvement studies at Unit level.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of a technology and Information Centre

1292. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up a technology and information centre to facilitate effective utilisation of available technology in industry;

(b) if so, by when the proposed centre is likely to be set up; and

(c) the manner in which the centre will function?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) A Technology Information Centre to cover various aspects of information pertaining to technology is already in operation in the Directorate General of Technical Development on a limited scale. However, the proposal for