

made a demand for the implementation of the directive of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in this regard; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Their demands are that the names of their Castes (Communities) which are included in the list of Scheduled Castes in the State of Punjab be deleted therefrom and that may be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in that State.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the judgement of Punjab and Haryana High Court it is suggested that Government of India may consider to delete Vimukt Jatis, to which the petitioners belong, from the list of Scheduled Castes and they may be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

The above proposal, along with others are being duly considered in consultation with the concerned State Governments/U.T. Administrations including that of Punjab and the Registrar General of India in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and in accordance with the relevant criteria followed for inclusion of any community in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The comments from some of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations including that of Punjab are still awaited and they are being regularly reminded. Any amendment in the existing list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be done only through an Act of Parliament in view of Articles 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution.

Sick Industrial Units

K952. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state,*

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 35,000 industrial units in the small and medium sectors have gone sick;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) According to the data (provisional) on sick industrial units collected by the Reserve Bank of India as per the definition of sickness adopted by it, there were 26,336 medium (enjoying bank facilities of less than Rs. One Crore each) and small scale sick industrial units as at the end of December, 1981.

(b) and (c) A number of causes, both internal and external, often operating in combination are responsible for industrial sickness. Some of the principal causes of industrial sickness are management deficiencies, inefficient financial control, diversion of resources, inadequate attention to R&D, obsolescence of technology and machinery, poor industrial relations, inadequacy of demand, shortage of raw materials and other inputs, and infrastructural constraints. Government have announced certain policy measures for the guidance of Central ministries, State Governments and financial institutions. A copy of the Pre-Note dated 6th October, 1981 issued in this regard was furnished in reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 700 answered on 15-7-1982. The Government have also taken several measures for facilitating the growth and updating technology of small scale industries which include extension of institutional network especially in backward areas for providing necessary back-up support and services to small scale units, consolidation and improvement of workshop facilities, setting up of Process and Product

Development Centres and Field Testing Stations, provision of increased marketing support, strengthening of coordination and linkages with various Central and State agencies; measures to remove the constraints of raw materials etc.

1953. [Transferred to the 22nd March, 1983.]

Production in the Saleable Steel

1954. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL has asked public sector steel plants to make all out efforts to increase productivity to achieve a record production of 6.7 million tonnes of saleable steel by the year end;

(b) whether it is a fact that according to the present production trend the saleable steel output during the current financial year would be less than the targets fixed and likely to be much less than the production in comparison to that in the last year; and

(c) if so, what are the guidelines issued by the SAIL to public sector steel plants for raising the productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) to (c) The target for production of saleable steel for SAIL plants for the year 1982-83 was kept at 6.47 million tonnes at the commencement of the year. However, there were heavy production losses on account of severe restrictions on power supply during the first five months of the year. The target was, therefore, revised to 5.80 million tonnes at the time of mid-year review of performance of SAIL plants. Production of saleable steel during the first eleven months has been 5.08 million tonnes. It is expected that the revised target for the year will nearly be achieved. The production during!

1982-83 is likely to exceed the production of 5.65 million tonnes of saleable steel in the previous year.

Efforts are being made to increase production and productivity of steel plants by ensuring regular supply of inputs like power and coal, improving the maintenance of plants and equipment, and keeping the morale of employees high.

Production of Cement in Small Scale Sector

1955. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether major concessions to cement production in the small scale sector are likely to increase the production in the small scale units in view of the IDBI having started refinancing State Financial Corporations for loans granted to tiny cement plants which are covered under the small scale to industrial sector;

(b) whether the State Financial Corporations and the State Industrial Development Corporations have so far been to offer financial assistance for setting up of tiny cement plants in the small scale sector; and

(c) whether IDBI has taken a decision on the financial assistance to all the mini cement plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) to (c) According to the instructions issued by IDBI in February, 1983, in respect of mini cement plant projects based on CRIVSK technology, it is not necessary for the credit institutions to seek prior clearance of IDBI before sanctioning financial assistance, if such proposals are in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the IDBI. In case of other technologies and projects in the small scale sector, IDBI propose to adopt a selective