

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Kerala has sent a report on this subject in May, 1977.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter was taken up with the State Government of Kerala. Meanwhile, as the lockout earlier declared by the management of this company was lifted on the 19th of Sept. 1977 and it was reported that normalcy and a sense of mutual cooperation between the management and the workers had been restored. It was decided to watch further developments. The workers' union of the company have, however, submitted another memorandum on the 8th of November 1978, requesting Government to cause an investigation into the affairs of the company. The State Government of Kerala have been requested to send a complete report and also to indicate if they desire to take over the management of the company so that Central Government can take further suitable action in the matter.

Shortage of white paper

706. SHRI SADASIV BAGAITKAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the paper mills in the country have accumulated huge stocks of printing paper;

(b) whether it is a fact that the price of white paper has increased recently;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to check the prices and to make paper available to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) There has been no report of any cornering of huge stocks

of Printing Paper by the Paper Mills.

(b) and (c) The price of white printing paper supplied to Education Sector has remained stationary.

(d) In order to ensure that marginal imbalance between demand and supply does not result in any speculative increase in prices, Government is importing certain quantities of Paper. Additional quantities will be imported as and when necessary. A close monitoring on price trends is also being undertaken.

Cabinet Panel on Kanti Desai Affairs

707. SHRI S. W. DHABE:

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV:

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:

SHRI SWAMI DINESH

CHANDRA:

SHRI SYED AHMAD

HASHMI:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHAN-

KAR ADIVAREKAR:

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Panel of the Cabinet or a Committee of Central Ministers has been set up to look into the allegations against Shri Kanti Desai;

(b) if so, what is the scope of the enquiry by this panel;

(c) whether the Cabinet Panel or Committee of Central Ministers has submitted any report in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what decisions Government have taken in the light thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. No formal or informal Panel or Committee of the Cabinet has been set up, to look into allegations against Shri Kantibhai Desai, but some of the Ministers expressed a desire to meet informally and consider the problem that arose as a result of the hold-up

of proceedings in the Rajya Sabha by the Opposition in the context of the motion adopted by the House on 10th August, 1978. As already announced by the Home Minister, it has since been decided to refer the debate on the motion that was adopted on 10th August, 1978 in the Rajya Sabha to the Chief Justice of India with a request that he may enquire whether any *prima facie* case in respect of any of the charges referred to in the debate aforesaid which pertains to the period after the present Government took office in March 1977 is established.

Special incentives to mini cement Plants

708. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give special incentives to mini cement plants; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The following incentives have been allowed for setting up mini cement plants with capacity not exceeding 200 tonnes (66,000 tonnes per annum):—

(i) The ex-works price of cement produced by the mini cement plants would be the same as the price admissible to new large sized plants viz., Rs. 296/- per tonne. This price will be assured for a period of five years from the date of going into commercial production;

(ii) Mini cement plants will be allowed a rebate in the payment of excise duty upto 50 per cent for a period of five years;

(iii) While mini cement plants will be subject to price control under the Cement Control Order and shall not sell cement at a price higher than the controlled price, they will be exempted from distribution control under the Cement Control Order, 1967. The mini cement plants will bear their own distribution costs and will not be required to adjust the freight element with the Cement Regulation Account. The other elements in the F.O.R. destination price of cement will however, be subject to adjustment with the Cement Regulation Account as per the existing provisions;

(iv) Mini cement plants set up in hilly and remote areas will be eligible for additional excise duty relief and/or cash subsidy on merits;

(v) Mini cement plant will also be eligible for all other existing incentives and facilities available under the Income Tax Act and/or under other scheme offered by the State Government.

Research centre for sports goods

709. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a research centre for sports goods in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a proposal to set up a Product and Process Development Centre for Sports Goods Industry during the current Plan period for carrying out research and developmental work for production and export of quality sports goods and Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) is preparing a detailed feasibility report.