

capacity of 1,00,000 tonnes each for the manufacture of writing and printing paper, other cultural varieties of paper, and surface sized paper. Most of the land has been acquired. Action has been taken to appoint contractors for site clearance at both the project sites. Orders have been placed for most of the long delivery items and action for placement of orders for the remaining items is also being taken. Necessary arrangements for the procurement of raw materials and other infra structural facilities have been completed. An agreement has been signed between the State Government and the HPC regarding the supply of bamboos. The Nowgong project is expected to be commissioned by the end of 1980 and the Cachar Project by end of 1981.

Soft credit to jute growers

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide soft credit to jute growers during the current financial year;

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

(c) whether Government are formulating any schemes for the benefit of the jute growers in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and by when these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) to (d) The Committee on Public Undertakings of the Lok Sabha which has recently examined the working of the Jute Corporation of India has recom-

mended, *inter-alia*, that cheap and liberal credit should be provided to jute growers. This and the other recommendations made by the Committee are being studied by the Government.

Reduction in the quota of cement to Madhya Pradesh

400. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have reduced the quarterly quota of cement to Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details of the reduction and what are the reasons for which it has been made;

(c) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has approached the Central Government for supply of additional quantity of cement to meet the acute shortage of cement in the State, and

(d) if so, what action Central Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b) No Statewise quota as such for allocation of cement has been fixed. Allocations are made at the beginning of each quarter depending on the anticipated availability of production during that quarter and the demands received from the various States.

(c) and (d) For the quarter April-June, 1978, the State of MP was allotted a quantity of 1.80 lakh tonnes of cement. The State Government requested for additional allocations. Subsequently on receipt of reports of some additional production, it has been decided to increase the allotment to 2.20 lakh tonnes for the quarter?