

(b) The National Small Industries Corporation, Okhla does not operate any special scheme of incentives for unemployed graduates exclusively. However, the Corporation provides concessional finance to technical entrepreneurs including graduate engineers who may be employed or unemployed.

Distribution of cement

2198. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have sent a letter recently to the Chief Ministers of all the States for keeping a scheme ready for the distribution of cement through the public agencies and the co-operatives; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps the State Governments have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) West Bengal State Government had proposed they might be allowed to take over distribution of cement through a State agency as from October, 1, 1978. Government of India have agreed to this. Details of the scheme are enclosed. A copy of the scheme of the West Bengal Government has been forwarded to all the other States and they have been requested to give due consideration to this to see whether a similar system or any other suitable mechanism for control over distribution needs to be introduced in every State. The State Governments of Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat and Maharashtra have responded favourably and necessary arrangements are being made by them to introduce direct distribution of cement as early as possible.

Scheme for public distribution of Cement in the State of West Bengal

The Government of West Bengal has decided to take over the distri-

bution of cement in West Bengal from 1st October, 1978. Bulk quantities of State allocation for the quarter (pertaining to State Sector) will be placed at the disposal of the State Government. The State Government has appointed the West Bengal Essential Commodity Supply Corporation for distribution of cement within the State. This Corporation will further allocate the quantities to RC (State Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings, etc.) / ORC parties (Small Scale Industries, Institutions, etc.) and free sale (for sale to public). The Regional Cement Controller will issue release orders in favour of RC and ORC parties on receipt of recommendation from this Corporation.

For sale of cement to the public the Corporation has started scrutinising antecedents of existing stockists of cement factories. On approval, the selected stockists will be appointed by the Corporation as its own stockists. The Corporation will distribute the free sale allocation of its State amongst these stockists or such other public agencies as it may select for sale of cement in West Bengal. The stockists will deposit money with this Corporation and the Corporation will arrange supplies from the various cement factories which are linked with the State by the Cement Controller for supply of cement during that particular quarter. The stockists will be directly answerable to the Corporation for sale of cement to public at the fixed retail price. The Corporation will retain full powers and control over the stockists and in case of malpractices indulged by any of its stockists it shall take prompt action to cancel the stockistship.

Statement by the President of the All India Small Newspapers Editors' Conference

2199. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the Govern-