

Cement production during Fifth Five Year Plan

1771. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study made by the Cement Research Institute of India has revealed that under the prevailing circumstances the target of cement output envisaged under the Fifth Five Year Plan will be difficult to achieve; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the production of cement during the Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

Statement

A paper on "Improvement Potential of existing cement plants—some case studies" read in a 3 day seminar held under the auspices of the Cement Research Institute of India has come to the conclusion that under the prevailing circumstances, it would be difficult to achieve the new capacity of cement output envisaged under the Fifth Five Year Plan. In this context, the Paper has also concluded on the basis of certain case studies on the Cement industry conducted by a firm of private consultants that it would be possible to increase the production of the existing units by 15-30 per cent of the rated capacity by spending 25-40 per cent of what would be required to achieve the same increase through new installation or major expansions. As the study did not specify the units in which additional production can be obtained with much lesser investment by way of modification and introduction of balancing equipment, the Panel on cement industry has decided to re-

quest all the cement manufacturers to examine the prospects of augmenting the production of cement from their existing units.

Efforts are also being made to overcome the current constraints on maximising production of cement like power-cuts, inadequate supply of coal and wagons etc. Setting up additional capacity to the extent of 18.87 million tonnes by way of Letters of Intent and Licences has also been approved.

Production of White paper

1772. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that paper industry has urged upon Government to revise the provision relating to the production of white paper;

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

(c) what is Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Appointment of a Commission to Study Economic conditions of Bihar

1773. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to appoint a commission to study the economic conditions of Bihar on the pattern of the Patel Commission which was appointed for Eastern Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?