

hours on week days and 7½ hours on Sundays/holidays. The duration of the programme has been increased to 8½ hours on week days and 8 hours on Sundays/holidays. It is proposed to increase the duration of this programme further to 6½ hours on week days and 9½ hours on Sundays/holidays, from 3rd October, 1958.

It is our objective to expand the programme gradually for the whole day as and when money becomes available.

Import Licences for photographic materials

*788 { Shri V. C. Shukla:
Shri Dinesh Singh:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the October, 1957-March 1958 period majority of the licences issued for the import of sensitised photographic materials were in favour of non-established importers of such materials;

(b) if so, how many of such licences were connected with the photographic trade and what is the position of the amount of licences issued and actually utilised by them during the above period;

(c) whether it is a fact that at present there is a serious shortage of sensitised photographic materials in the country; and

(d) if so, the reason thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (d). During October 1957-March 1958 the licensing to established importers was of the order of Rs. 20 lakhs. After the announcement of the import policy for that period, complaints were received from the trade regarding shortages of photographic materials and it was decided to issue a licence for Rs. 6 lakhs to the State Trading Corporation for import against rupee account and also

to issue small value licences on an actual-user basis to printers, laboratories etc. Even though the number of licences issued in this manner are large, the total value of such licences is much less than half the value of licences issued to established importers. Information regarding the actual utilisation of the licences is not available.

2. There is still a shortage of photographic materials, but the gap between the demand and the imports cannot be bridged until the foreign exchange position improves. The reason for the shortage is obvious, namely restricted imports on account of difficult foreign exchange position.

Building Materials

*789. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1778 on the 22nd April, 1958 and state the progress made with regard to the use of substitutes for steel and cement in the execution of building projects by the Central and State Governments?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): It is still too early to make an assessment. With a view, however, to promote the manufacture and use of lime a symposium on "Manufacture and use of Building Lime in India" was held at Rewa in March 1958. Copies of the proceedings of the Symposium have been placed in the Parliament Library.

Coal Gas Production Plant in Delhi

*790. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 285 on the 19th February, 1958 and state the progress made so far in regard to the setting up of a coal gas production plant in Delhi?