

Soviet Aid to Kerala

*1745. { Shri Rajendra Singh:
Shri Subhuti Mishra:
Shrimati Ra Palchoudhuri:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Wodeyar:
Shri J. B. S. Bhat:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Shri Namboodripad, Chief Minister of Kerala, gave a statement (published in the Hindustan Times, 18th January, 1959) to the effect that during his forthcoming visit to U.S.S.R. he would try to find out whether the Russian assistance that is being given increasingly to this country can be used for the economic development of Kerala State also, and

(b) whether the Chief Minister of Kerala State has been given any instructions by the Government of India to carry on such negotiations?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon)

(a) and (b) We have seen the report in the Hindustan Times about it, but at a later press conference in Delhi the Chief Minister made it clear that his idea was simply to find out if there was any scope for expansion for the marketing of the products of his State in U.S.S.R. He also said that if such opportunities existed, he would approach the Central Government about them. We have no authentic texts of these statements, but in view of the above, the question of giving any instructions to him did not arise.

Tea Research Institute

*1746. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fundamental tea research institute will be started by the Government at Doars, West Bengal and

(b) if so, when?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The Tea Board is considering the starting of such an institute. the location of this institute will also be considered by the Board shortly

(b) This does not arise at present. If the scheme is finally approved, it may take about 2 to 3 years for the institute to start functioning

Cement Factory in Orissa

*1747. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 254 on the 25th November, 1958 in respect of Cement Factory in Orissa and state

(a) whether any decision has since been arrived at, and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The application has been rejected

Optical Glass Plant

*1748. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 330 on the 29th November, 1958 and state the progress made so far in setting up optical glass plant as recommended by the Russian experts?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): The Memorandum of Instructions and initial data required for the preparation of the detailed project report was made available to M/s Techno-export of Moscow in August 1958. The detailed project report is