

Statement

The exact site for the location of the Precision Instruments factory in Kerala is yet to be selected in consultation with USSR experts who have been invited for the purpose. This plant which is for the manufacture of pneumatic, hydraulic and mechanical instruments is estimated to cost about Rs. 6 crores. The recommendations of USSR experts on the nomenclature of production, output, etc., are awaited. The total number of various personnel required for running the factory will be known only when the detailed project reports are received from the USSR authorities. The factory is expected to go into production during latter half of the Third Plan.

International Atomic Energy Agency Fund

*333. { Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have withdrawn her offer of voluntary contribution to the International Atomic Energy Agency Fund; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). At the Fifth General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency held in Vienna during September-October 1961, the Indian Delegation announced during the General Debate that as in previous years, the Government of India intended to make a voluntary contribution to the General Fund of the Agency for the year 1962. Later at a meeting at which Member States made firm pledges of voluntary contributions, the Indian Delegation said that the question of India's contribution was under reconsideration, because certain events during the Conference had taken a course which was unsatisfactory from the point of

view of several nations, and particularly the non-aligned Asian and African nations. As no definite contribution was at any time made, the question of its withdrawal does not arise.

Price of Cement

*334. { Shri Kalika Singh:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

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

(a) the present F. O. R. rail-head destination price of unpacked cement per tonne and the packing charges thereof;

(b) criteria adopted for fixing quarterly allotments of cement to different States and the reason for low allocation to U. P. State;

(c) reason for rise of price of cement since November, 1961;

(d) the mode adopted by State Trading Corporation of India Limited for proper distribution and sale of cement; and

(e) the time by which control in all respects on cement is likely to be withdrawn?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The present F.O.R. rail-head destination price of unpacked cement is Rs. 94 per tonne plus the excise duty which is at present Rs. 23-60. The packing charges are Rs. 18 per tonne.

(b) During December 1960, it was decided that allocations of cement to States for the quarter January-March, 1961, should be made on the basis of average of allotment and despatches during the previous four quarters and the quota for U.P. was worked out as 49,100 tonnes per month. Allotment to U.P. is the highest made to any State.

(c) The rise in price of cement since November 1961 is due to factors such as upward revision of wages as a result of implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Board on the Cement Industry; extension of the Award to labour in quarries and consequent rise in the cost of limestone/