

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to develop this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b). Reserves of 106,000 tonnes of Sodium Sulphate, 9,500 tonnes of Thenardite (a form of Sodium Sulphate) and about 0.8 million tonnes of Total Salts (Sodium and Potassium) are available from the salt bed beneath the lake water and about 0.66 million tonnes of elemental Sodium from the lake Brine at Rupshu in Ladakh.

Protocol between India and Czechoslovakia for New Cement Plants

3906. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recent protocol signed by the Minister and the Czechoslovakian Minister for Metallurgy and Heavy Engineering;

(b) whether the equipment to be manufactured by the HEC for three large cement units will be used for setting up new plants within the country or it will be exported to third countries; and

(c) details thereof in either case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) to (c). It has been agreed in the recent discussions which took place in Delhi with Czechoslovak Minister of Metallurgy and Heavy Engineering that Czechoslovakia will contribute in promoting the utilisation of industrial capacities of Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC), Ranchi by importing equipment for rolling mills and coke oven batteries and provide assistance to HEC in the manufacture of large capacity cement plants. The detailed terms of the contracts are under negotiations. The basis of further development of cooperation between Czechoslovakia and Bharat

Heavy Electricals Ltd. for supply of components for power generating sets manufacture of trolley buses was also agreed to. Supplies of engineering goods to Czechoslovakia were also identified particularly in respect of tower cranes for steel and construction projects. Cooperation and implementation of projects in third countries, chiefly relating to cement plants, steel plants and crude oil refineries were identified on the basis of complementary production of the two countries.

The equipments proposed to be manufactured by HEC for large capacity cement plants will be utilised for setting up new plants within the country and also exports to third countries, depending on the orders secured.

Setting up of Wig factory at Palani

3907. SHRI K. A. RAJU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India is aware of the fact that pilgrims from all over India visit Palani and worship Lord Muruga and offer their human hair to Lord Muruga; and

(b) if so, with the availability of this large amount of human hair, is there any proposal with the Government of India to open a large scale wig factory, so that topas can be exported to foreign countries and the Government will earn foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b). The State Trading Corporation of India was running a Wig Factory at Madras which had to be subsequently closed down as the operations were uneconomic. The Government of India do not have any proposal at present to set up a large scale wig factory.