

the last three years are indicated below :—

Year	Cases
1979	13
1980	12
1981	9

(c) and (d). Inquiries were conducted by the Sub-Divisional Magistrates/Assistants Commissioner of Police, in all these cases. As a result of the inquiries and subsequent departmental action, penalty has been imposed in 11 cases, and departmental inquiries are in progress in 3 cases. Criminal case has been registered in one case. In 7 cases, the allegations have not been substantiated, and inquiries in 12 cases by the SDMs/ACPs, are still pending.

Import of Cement

4954. SHRI SUDHIR KUMAR GIRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the scheme under which actual users in non-priority sectors would be allowed to import cement; and

(b) whether the prices of cement thus imported would be higher than the prevailing prices in the domestic market ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: (a) Under the new policy on cement announced on 27-2-1982, State Trading Corporation of India Ltd., and State Trading Corporations are allowed to import cement freely on their own account or on account of actual users. Details of the procedure for such imports are being worked out.

(b) It is too early to draw any comparison of prices of cement yet to be imported with that of cement produced within the country.

Thorium Nitrate Plants in the Country

4955. SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated requirement of Thorium Nitrate in the country whether it is proposed to set up Thorium Nitrate Plants in the country ;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to export the produce :

(c) whether any survey had been about Thorium bearing sands in the country ; and

(d) if so, the details and programme for its exploitation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS, ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT : (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH) : (a) The estimated average requirement of Thorium Nitrate in the country is about 175-200 tonnes per year. An old Thorium Nitrate Plant of the Department of Atomic Energy, set up in 1955, has been producing about 110-130 tonnes of this chemical per year. Measures are being taken to set up a new plant of 300 tonnes per year capacity in replacement of the existing plant.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The estimated monazite reserves in the beach sands and inland placer deposits, bearing Thorium as a constituent, is estimated to be in the region of 40,00,000 tonnes. Thorium from monazite is extracted in the form of Thorium Hydroxide at the Rare Earths Plant of Indian Rare Earths Limited at Alwaye, and is stockpiled for potential use, except for a small portion converted into Thorium Nitrate.