

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) During the last three years this Ministry, has not granted permission to any State to set up any new Cashewnut processing plant.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Abolition of tourist visas

1029. SHRI B. V. DESAI:

SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA:

SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

SHRI ASFAQ HUSSAIN:

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to abolish tourist visas;

(b) whether this decision was taken overruling the objections from the Ministry and protests from the hotel and travel trade;

(c) whether the Tourism Ministry also opposed this move;

(d) what are the main reasons for abolishing tourist visas;

(e) whether it is also a fact that recently some foreigners started indulging in unlawful activities in India; and

(f) if so, to what extent this can be checked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (d) Government have not taken any decision to abolish tourist visas.

(e) and (f) No reports have been recently received indicating involvement of some foreigners in unlawful activities. Appropriate action is taken in case anything adverse comes to notice

Thefts in Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan

1030. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of thefts in the Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan have lately been on the increase;

(b) if so, the number of theft cases detected during the last six months stating the cost of the articles involved; and

(c) the measures taken to check these thefts and to bring the persons concerned to book?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b) Five (5) cases of theft each were detected in the Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan, New Delhi, during the years 1979 and 1980. In 1981 nine (9) cases of theft were detected. During the last six months (January—June, 1982) no case of theft was detected.

(c) Salesmen at the counters have been directed to be more vigilant during rush hours. During the Special Rebate Sales period when there is a heavy rush of customers more persons are employed at the counters. A Watchman has been posted at the gate to watch the customers and to prevent shoplifting. Besides, two or three persons are also deployed on the floor of the Bhawan to assist the customers and to keep a watch on them.

Directions and guidelines for distribution of cement

1031. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the directions and guidelines issued by the Central Government for distribution of Cement (i) at the fair/controlled prices and (ii) the open market cement prices under the dual pricing system; and

(b) the steps being taken to prevent diversion of fair-price cement to open market?