

Production of Tea

394. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of International Trade be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the production of tea in North East India has declined considerably during the last three months as compared to the corresponding months of 1962?

The Minister of International Trade (Shri Manubhai Shah): No, Sir. The production of tea in North East India during the last three months was as under. The fall in production in month of August 1963 was due to extremely adverse weather conditions:—

(Production of tea in million kgs.)

	1963	1962	Difference
August	47.6	49.7	-2.1
September	44.2	44.9	-0.7
October	45.1	43.1	+2.0

The production has again risen in October, 1963.

Three-wheeler Vehicle Production

395. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has recommended expansion of existing capacity of three-wheeler vehicle production in the country during Fourth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether there is a monopoly by a particular firm at present;

(c) if so, whether some other firms from West Bengal have also applied for licence; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) No firm targets of capacity and production for automobile industries during the Fourth

Plan have yet been decided. Demand for three-wheeler vehicles is now being assessed.

(b) One firm is, at present, licensed for the manufacture of three-wheelers.

(c) and (d) An application for grant of a licence for setting up a plant in West Bengal for the manufacture of three-wheelers was received, but it has been rejected as there is no scope, at present, for licensing additional capacity in the field.

Cement Factories in Himachal Pradesh

396. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration to erect cement factories in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) and (b). A letter of approval will be granted agreeing to the setting up of a cement factory by M/s. Raja Ram & Co. (Private) Ltd. at Rajban, Himachal Pradesh, for an annual capacity of 100,000 tonnes.

Cotton Mills in Himachal Pradesh

397. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of International Trade be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration to erect cotton mills in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of International Trade (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A licence has already been issued for the establishment of a cotton spinning mill with 12,000 spindles at Peonta. Issue of licence for a second unit is under consideration in consultation with the Himachal Pradesh Administration.