

Cement Plants in Gujarat

8295. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mineral survey of different areas in Gujarat conducted last year to find suitable locations for cement plants in Gujarat revealed that at least 12 areas in the State, particularly Junagadh, Western Kutch, Broach and Bhavnagar, bear vast reserves of minerals like cement grade lime-stone and gypsum, and present fine locations for cement factories ;

(b) if so, whether the Gujarat Government have submitted any proposals for setting up cement factories in these areas in the private cooperative or public sector and if so, the main features thereof ; and

(c) the total additional cement production capacity proposed to be installed in the State in the light of the aforesaid survey ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unused Licences

8296. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH :

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Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have lately speeded up action to revoke unused licences with a view to ensure that investment opportunities are not blocked for new entrepreneurs ;

(b) if so, the number of licences issued in 1966-67 which have not been proceeded with, or in connection with which the progress is rather slow, and how many of them relate to iron and steel industry and the manufacturers of these latter licences ; and

(c) the action taken so far for the revocation of these licences and for issuing alternative licences to new entrepreneurs ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Railway Line in Tripura

8297. SHRI MANIKYA BAHADUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total length of the railway line at present in Tripura ;

(b) the percentage of the area and population of the Union Territory which are catered by the Railways ;

(c) whether Government have considered the desirability and the feasibility of extending the railway line in the State by about 128 miles to link the State's capital Agartala with the rest of the country by rail and if so, the estimated cost thereof ;

(d) whether it is proposed to be included in the year 1968-69 plan or in the Forth Five Year Plan ; and

(e) whether any scheme from the Private Sector for the said extension or rail link with Agartala has been under consideration, if so, from which company ; and if not, whether Government propose to tap the private sector resources for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b). The information about length of railway lines is only compiled railway-wise and not State-wise. The route kilometres as on 31st March 1967, of the Northeast Frontier Railway which serves Tripura, Nagaland, Assam, Bihar and West Bengal States was :—

	(kilometres)
Broad Gauge	638'60
Metre Gauge	2898'63
Narrow Gauge	87'48
Total	3624'71

(c) No specific investigations for the extension of the Kalkalighat-Dharamnagar line upto Agartala have been carried out so far. On a rough estimate such an extension may cost about Rs. 20 crores.

(d) due to the present difficult ways and means position it is doubtful whether this line can be taken up for construction in the 4th Plan.

(e) Neither any proposal for the construction of this line through the Private Sector is under consideration nor is it proposed to tap such a source for this purpose.

Small Scale Industries in Tripura

8298. SHRI MANIKYA BAHADUR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tripura had submitted any scheme for Government's approval for the development of Small Scale Industries in the State during 1968-69 and whether it has met Government's approval;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof and what central assistance, if any, would be given for this scheme; and

(c) the number and nature of job opportunities that are likely to arise under the said scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). The State Government of Tripura had proposed an outlay of Rs. 14.18 lakhs in their Annual Plan 1968-69, mainly for the following schemes :—

- (1) Marketing publicity,
- (2) Financial assistance for small industries,
- (3) Continuance of production programme at their departmentally-run units.

These schemes were discussed by the working group Village & Small Industries of the Planning Commission and outlay of Rs. 8 lakhs was agreed to for the development of small scale Industries.

(c) The information is being collected and it will be placed on the Table of the House.

Issue of Import Licences

8299. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of the import licences given to :

- (i) M/S. Prestolite of India Ltd.,
 - (ii) M/S. Devis and White (India) Pvt. Ltd., and
 - (ii) I. N. S. P. I. Auto Industries (P) Ltd. during the last six years;
- (b) the purpose for which the licences were issued ;
- (c) whether Government have verified if these licences have not been misused;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof ; and
- (e) the action taken against the companies for breach of regulations ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b). The particulars of Import Licences issued to these firms are published in the Weekly Bulletin of Industrial Licences, Import Licences and Export Licences and copies of which are available in the Parliamentary Library.

(c) to (e). It has been reported that these firms obtained actual user's import licences for import of carburetor parts and other items and sold the imported materials in the market in contravention of the conditions of the licences. Investigation in respect of these cases is in progress.

M/S. Prestolite of India Ltd.

8300. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any complaints and/or representations from any source about the affairs of M/S. Prestolite of India Ltd. having its registered office at Kundan Mansion 2A/3 Asaf Ali Road;

(b) if so, the nature thereof; and

(c) whether any action has been taken thereon and if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The allegations against the management of the company include depiction of an exaggerated position in the prospectus, inflation of preliminary expenses incurred at the pre-incorporation stage, allotment of shares to benamdars, import of old and re-