

production of about 30,000 last year, the reasons why Government refused the application of M/s. Bajaj Auto, made in 1955, for exemption of capacity to produce 60,000 scooters:

- (b) what other applications for similar expansions and in what numbers were received from other companies and;
(c) as there is saving in foreign exchange and in capital expenditure the reason why

Government have given a licence for a new unit when it could sanction expansion of existing unit ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) to (c). Besides the expansion scheme submitted by M/s. Bajaj Auto, expansion scheme had also been received from the following three existing manufacturers:—

S.No	Name of the Manufacturer	Existing licenced capacity Nos. P.A.	Capacity after expansion as applied for Nos P A.
1.	M/s. Automobile Products of India Ltd. Bombay.	12,000 (Scooters including three—wheelers)	Scooters 60000 Three 10600 Wheelers
2.	M/s. Enfield India Ltd., Madras.	6000 (Scooters)	Scooters 60000
3.	M/S. Escorts Ltd., New Delhi.	6000 (Motor Cycles. Also permitted to manufacture scooters within this capacity).	Motor Cycles & Scooters 60000

These expansion schemes were considered along with the schemes for the establishment of new undertakings by other interested parties and it has been decided to license a new unit, in preference to the expansion of existing units, firstly because by licensing a new unit of a suitable economic capacity, the selling prices of scooters are expected to come down substantially and secondly because it was felt that the existing manufacturers would not, by themselves, be able to meet the entire demand for scooters which is continually going up.

MANUFACTURE OF CABLES

1287. **SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a project to manufacture cables in the name of Hindustan Cables II was sanctioned in 1966 and the foundation stone was laid by the then Minister; and

(b) if so, what is the progress in the execution of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) and (b). It was decided by the Govern-

ment in December, 1966 to locate the Second Factory of Hindustan Cables Ltd. at Hyderabad, and the foundation stone was laid by the then Union Minister for Industries. The demand for additional cables required by the Ministry of Communications is being reassessed and the availability or finances for investment in a public sector unit under consideration of the Government

BORAX DEPOSITS IN LADAKH

1288. **SHRI P. VEKATASUBBAIAH:** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether drilling operations are being carried on in Ladakh for exploration of Borax deposits; and

(b) if so, the results thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) and (b): Borax occurs in Puga Valley in Ladakh as surface incrustations (thickness varying from 3 to 60 cm.) and therefore no drilling is necessary. Assessment of reserves and studies in regard to replenishments of deposits are being made by the Geological Survey of India. This will take sometime.