

2. Plywood Tea Chest; and

3. Camel Back (which is a material used in tyre retreading).

Abolition of Control on Cement

*36. SHRI P. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to abolish control on cement and its prices in the country; and

(b) if so, the advantages thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) and (b). While the Government have not taken any decision in this regard, various suggestions received in this connection are always examined.

Untapped High Grade Coal in Abandoned Collieries

*37. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:
SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 136 million tonnes of high grade coal is lying untapped in abandoned collieries of Giridih, Jharia and Raniganj coal fields;

(b) whether Coal India Ltd., has taken steps to restart mining operations in the abandoned collieries; and

(c) if not, whether a thorough enquiry and survey to have a correct estimate is contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) it is estimated that about 2.23 million tonnes of good quality coal is lying in the Giridih coalfield in abandoned collieries. There may be some quantity of high grade coal lying untapped in abandoned collieries in Jharia and Raniganj coal-fields. However, their quantitative assessment is not possible.

(b) A feasibility report was prepared for working the pillars standing in abandoned mines and the coal barriers between mines in the Giridih coal field. These pillars are under water. The working of these reserves will involve pumping of a huge quantity of water. To examine the possibility of working of these reserves safely, economically and scientifically, a Committee has been constituted by Coal India Ltd. The abandoned mines in Jharia and Raniganj coalfields have been either amalgamated with some of the existing mines or they have been reopened wherever it was found technically and economically feasible.

(c) Does not arise.

Production of Wrist Watches

*38. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the new scheme reported to have been initiated for increasing production of wrist watches in the country with Swiss collaboration;

(b) whether its employment potential and other economic aspects have been examined;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the time by which the scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) to (d). Messrs Hindustan Machine Tools Limited have a plan to increase production of wrist watches (Hand wound) from 6.6 lakh to 30 lakhs per annum in two phases, in respect of which the components and movements would be manufactured by the Hindustan Machine Tools and assembled in selected areas dispersed round the country. There is a further proposal

for HMT to seek Swiss collaboration and assistance for further enhancement of watch making capacity in India for which a Project Report for expanding the production is under preparation. The details regarding employment potential and other economic aspects will be known after the report is completed. Care is being taken to work out the scheme for the decentralised assembly of watches so as to provide employment to skilled operators in different parts of the country.

Government have also given approvals to some projects in the private sector for setting up of wrist watch manufacturing units in the country specifically with Swiss collaboration. The brief details of these proposals are given in the statement.

Of these, two companies viz. M/s. Hegde & Golay and M/s. Sondhi Tressa Time Industries Pvt. Limited have already gone into production. The remaining projects are at various stages of implementation.

Statement

Watch manufacturing programmes with Swiss Collaboration approved so far (as on 7-8-76)

Sl. No.	Name of the party	Name of foreign collaborator	Capacity	Location	Remarks
			Lakhs		
1.	M/s. Sondhi Tressa Time Industries Private Ltd.	M/s. Tressa Watch Co. Ltd., Geneva, Switzerland.	3.6	Shahdara, Delhi.	
2.	M/s. Hegde & Golay Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore.	M/s. Bernard Golay, Switzerland.	1.00	Bangalore.	
3.	Shri G.S. Purewal, Simla.	M/s. Revue Thommen A. G. Switzerland.	6.00	Dharampur (Simla Hills)	
4.	Shri H. C. Bangara, Bombay.	M/s. Roemer Watch Co. Switzerland.	3.6	Maharashtra/Haryana.	
5.	M/s. Camy India, Bombay.	M/s. Camy Watch Co. Ltd., Geneva, Switzerland.	4.8	Maharashtra/Gujarat.	
6.	M/s. Sandoz (India) Ltd., New Delhi.	—	2.8	Shahdara, Delhi.	While this project ⁴¹ is being set up without any financial or technical collaboration some import of machinery etc. has been arranged by the applicant, who is a non-resident Indian.