

a Member. The statistics in regard to concessions etc. granted in individual cases are not available at the Ministry level.

Import of obsolete Paper and pulp making Machinery

360. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:

SHRI T. CHANDRASEKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report in the 'Financial Express' of 17th September, 1982 regarding the import of obsolete paper and pulp making machinery;

(b) if so, whether Government have enquired into the matter and fixed responsibility for creating this scandalous anomaly; and

(c) whether Government have now cancelled all such import licences?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Import of small second-hand paper and pulp machinery came to be allowed during the period 1975—81 with a view primarily to encourage use of secondary raw material for manufacture of paper and also to lessen the shortage of paper. Imports were actually considered and approved having regard to the condition of these machines and also an assured period of residual life. As a result of this policy, the number of paper mills increased from 63 in 1974 to 136 in 1981. During 1974—1981, two large paper mills were set up based on forest raw materials and the rest of the additional capacity has come from small paper mills. Some of which are based on imported second-hand machinery. Major increase in installed-capacity for paper during this period came from small paper mills.

Import of 30 tonnes per day capacity second-hand paper plant has been banned since March, 1981.

In order to ensure that very old machinery is not imported into the country, the following provisions in the import policy for 1982-83 have been made:—

(i) Import of second-hand paper machinery is no longer allowed to non-resident Indians returning to India;

(ii) Import of second-hand machinery having expected residual life of less than five years and also machinery more than ten years old is not allowed.

Decontrol of Cement

361. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to decontrol cement; and

(b) if so, by when this proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) No Sir. However, cement has been partially de-controlled with effect from 28th February, 1982.

(b) Does not arise.

Investments involved in sick units.

362. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI RAM LAKHAN PRASAD GUPTA;

SHRI LAKHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick units in large, medium and small scale sectors, and also the investments involved in them;