

against the installed capacity from 1977 is given below:—

(In lakhs tonnes)

Year	Installed capacity	Production of paper & paper Boards
1977 . . .	11.37	9.38
1978 . . .	12.65	10.06
1979 . . .	13.80	10.47
1980 . . .	15.38	11.12

By and large the domestic production has been adequate to meet the demand of common varieties of paper and paper boards and it was necessary to resort to imports only in respect of speciality paper such as electrical insulation paper, filter papers etc. Since 1978 a marginal shortage of writing and printing paper was being experienced and it was necessary to arrange for import of writing and printing paper through the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. The quantum of such imports during the last three years is indicated below:—

Year	Quantity (in tonnes)	Value (Rs. crores)
1978-79 . . .	11,630	6.22
1979-80 . . .	66,353	35.74
1980-81 . . .	59,012	33.28

In the year 1978-79, when imports were initiated, the quantum was comparatively low, and in the succeeding years, imports reached a higher level. Subsequently, the quantum of imports has been decreasing corresponding to the increase in domestic production.

(c) A quantity of about 15,880 tonnes writing and printing paper was imported from 1st January, 1981 to 31st August, 1981 at a cost of Rs. 9.40 crores in foreign exchange. According to tentative estimates, about 39,985 tonnes writing and printing paper may be imported during the rest of the year at a cost of Rs. 23.80 crores in foreign exchange. Government have arranged for the import of writing and printing paper to meet the requirements of consumers and to ensure that the marginal imbalance between demand and supply does not result in a speculative increase in prices.

#### Cement for Kerala

\*477. SHRI T. BASHEER:

SHRI C. HARIDAS:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what was the cement requirement of Kerala for the last three years;

(b) what was the allotment by the Central Government during the respective years;

(c) what is the quantum requested for by the Government of Kerala for the current year;

(d) whether Government have decided on the quantum of allotment; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (e) Government of Kerala recently indicated that their requirement of cement would be about 5 lakh tonnes per quarter. Allocation of cement to the State of Kerala during the last three Calendar Years and

during the first three quarters of the Current year is as under:—

Year	In tonnesx	
	Allocation	
1978 . . . . .	7,65,000	
1979 . . . . .	8,86,900	
1980 . . . . .	9,83,700	
1981 . . . . .	8,49,900	
(January—September '81)		

#### Research on Sun-powered Plastics

\*478. (SHRIMATI) NAZMA:  
HEPTULLA:

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of research projects taken up on "Sun-powered Plastics" as reported in Nuclear India, in view of the possibility of producing materials ranging from soft foams to ultra-hard substances out of agricultural surpluses and wastes?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): At the Polymer and Fibre Science Department of the University of Manchester, Institute of Science and Technology, a team of scientist led by Dr. John Stanford has shown that plastics with a very broad spectrum of properties can be obtained from plant materials. As the plants use, solar energy through the photosynthetic process, the new materials have been termed as "Sun-powered Plastics". These materials, as well as fillers needed for most commonly used plastics which can also be derived from renewable resources, will have considerable potential in various industrial applications. At the Shri Ram Institute for Industrial Research, New Delhi. Some exploratory work to find out the possibilities of getting plastics rubber and other monomers from plants has been initiated. In addition the Department of Science

and Technology has set up two Biomass Research Centres (at National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow and Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai) who are working on the botanical and chemicals greening, selection and cultivation of plant varieties for various specific and uses including extraction of hydrocarbons.

#### Assult in Truck drivers in Bihar

\*479. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the incidents of attack on the truck drivers belonging to Sikh minority in Bihar leading to destruction, burning of trucks, beating of drivers, creating panic among a minority community in Bihar in the month of May, 1981; and

(b) if so, what are the details of these attacks and what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir. The Government of Bihar have not reported about any such incidents of May, 1981.

(b) The question does not arise.

\*480. [Transferred to the 16th September, 1981]

#### Immigration Clearance given to Shri Rajneesh

@2782. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Rajneesh of the Pune Rajneesh Ashram left India recently under mysterious circumstances; and

@Previously Unstarred Question 2297 transferred from the 11th September, 1981.