

**Sabarmati Ashram Memorial Trust,
Ahmedabad**

1342. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sabarmati Ashram Memorial Trust at Ahmedabad have sought more assistance from the Government of India for preservation of this historic plan for promotion of tourism; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Licence to private parties for Gems and other precious stones

1343. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the rules with regard to giving licence to the private parties for prospecting for Gems and other precious stones;

(b) whether Government propose to liberalise the present rules; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in negative, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 framed under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 contained rules governing grant of licence for prospecting for minerals including gems and other precious stones. These Rules apply alike to all minerals excluding minor minerals and parties both in the private and public sectors.

(b) Yes, Sir; amendments to this effect are under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Capacity utilisation in Public Sector Units

1344. SHRI PILOO MODY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased

to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of an analysis of 185 Public Sector Units in 1978-79, about a third of such units only have recorded a capacity utilisation of more than 75 per cent;

(b) what were the comparative figures of capacity utilisation for the previous two years;

(c) what are the reasons for this decline in capacity utilisation;

(d) what was the position of capacity utilisation during 1979-80; and

(e) what steps are taken to improve the position?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b) Information relating to Capacity Utilisation in manufacturing units for the years 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79 is furnished in the Public Enterprises Survey 1978-79—Annual Report on the Working of Industrial and Commercial Undertakings of the Central Government, Vol. I, Chapter 14 (p. 166). It might be added that manufacturing units under construction in the initial stages of production and units in Defence sector, etc. in whose cases data are not available, have been excluded for working out the percentages (shown in brackets) in the information furnished.

(c) A multiplicity of factors, both exogenous and endogenous operate as constraints in production leading to decline in capacity utilisation, such as power shortages, fluctuations and failures, inadequacy or poor quality of raw material, old age of plant and equipment, equipment breakdown, industrial unrest, managerial shortcomings, etc.

(d) On the basis of provisional information, it is estimated that 61 out of 133 units have recorded capacity utilisation over 75 per cent in 1979-80.

(e) A number of steps have been taken by Government to improve the state of capacity utilisation, such as:

(i) provisioning of captive power equipment;

(ii) providing balancing facilities;