

Export of Cement to Iran

577. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR
ADIVAREKAR :

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SUL-
TAN :

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KUL-
KARNI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered
into an agreement with Iran to export more
cement to that country;

(b) if so, the terms of the agreement;
and

(c) the internal demand and availability
of cement in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a)
and (b) The State Trading Corporation en-
tered into an agreement in April 1974 for
export of cement to Iran, valued at Rs.
8.6 crores for shipment during April 1974
to June 1975.

(c) The internal demand for cement was
estimated at about 19 million tonnes at
the end of 1973-74 and production at 14.61
million tonnes in that year. The capacity
for cement production is estimated to be
19.78 million tonnes.

Imported raw materials with MMTC

578. SHRI B. P. NAGARAJA MUR-
THY:
SHRI B. RACHAIAH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any
decision over the non-lifting by trade and
industry of imported raw materials lying
with the Minerals and Metals Trading Cor-
poration and other canalising agencies ;

(b) whether there is any proposal under
Government's consideration to cut import
replenishment licences issued to actual users
and other concerned interest; and

(c) if so, what are details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a)
Steps are being taken to facilitate early
lifting by trade and industry of imported
raw materials lying with the canalising agen-
cies.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of cotton

579. SHRI B. P. NAGARAJA MUR-
THY:
SHRI B. RACHAIAH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has
decided to import part of its requirements
of medium staple cotton from the U.S.A.;
and

(b) whether any negotiations have been
held with the Soviet Union also and if so,
the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a)
Depending on the gap between supply and
demand and the anticipated export volumes
of cotton textiles, there may be need for
importing medium staple cottons required
for export production. While the U.S.A.
can supply medium staple cotton required
by us, the question of importing from the
U.S.A. and/or other source is still under
consideration.

(b) The possibility of import of some
medium staple cotton from U.S.S.R. has
been mooted during recent Indo-USSR
Trade Talks. No decision has as yet been
taken nor any Agreement signed in this
behalf.