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INDIAN TARIFF BOARD

Enquiry regarding the Grant of Protection

TO THE

CEMENT INDUSTRY

EVIDENCE TENDERED BY

APPLICANTS FOR PROTECTION.



CALCUTTA : GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH
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INDEX.

	PAGE.
I. Press Communiqué issued by the Tariff Board	i
II. Questionnaire issued to Manufacturing Firms who are applicants for Protection	1
III. Evidence tendered by Applicants—	
1. The Central Provinces Portland Cement Company, Limited—	
A.—Written	17
B.—Oral	38
2. The Indian Cement Company, Limited—	
3. The Gwalior Cement Company, Limited—	
A.—Written (The Indian Cement Company, Limited) .	85
A.—Written (The Gwalior Cement Company, Limited) .	106
B.—Oral (Both Companies together)	125
4. The Dwarka Cement Company, Limited—	
A.—Written	175
B.—Oral	198
5. The Bundi Portland Cement Company, Limited—	
Written	230
6. The Punjab Portland Cement Company, Limited—	
Written	243
7. The Katni Cement and Industrial Company, Limited—	
Written	251
8. The Jubbulpore Portland Cement Company, Limited—	
Written	270
IV.—Miscellaneous Representations—	
(1) Fiscal Reform League, Bombay—	
Written	278
(2) Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay—	
Written	278
(3) Calcutta Port Trust—	
Written	279
(4) Burma Chamber of Commerce—	
Written	281

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11716

. Press Communiqué.

In a communiqué dated the 17th April 1924, the Tariff Board outlined the procedure they had decided to adopt in their enquiries into the industries referred to them in the Resolution of the Government of India in the Commerce Department No. 38-T. dated the 10th April 1924. The first stage was to obtain the evidence of the applicants for protection, and the second to publish this evidence—whether written or oral—so that all interested might give their opinions after they had had an opportunity of considering the case put forward. The evidence tendered by the applicants for protection in the cement industry (together with four other representations received by the Board) has now been published, and copies may be obtained from the Manager, Central Publication Branch, 8, Hastings Street, Calcutta, price one rupee.

2. Replies to the Board's questionnaire have been received from the following cement manufacturing firms:—

1. The Central Provinces Portland Cement Co., Ltd.
2. The Indian Cement Co., Ltd.
3. The Gwalior Cement Co., Ltd.
4. The Dwarka Cement Co., Ltd.
5. The Bundi Portland Cement Co., Ltd.
6. The Punjab Portland Cement Co., Ltd.
7. The Katni Cement & Industrial Co., Ltd.
8. The Jubbulpore Portland Cement Co., Ltd.
9. The Sone Valley Portland Cement Co., Ltd.

The written statements of Nos. 1 to 8 are now published, together with the oral evidence given by the representatives of Nos. 1 to 4. The oral evidence of the other companies will be taken in the near future, but the Board have decided that the publication of the evidence should not be deferred in order to include it. The case for protection has been sufficiently elaborated in the evidence already taken, and a further delay would seriously retard the completion of the Board's enquiry.

3. The present duty on imported cement is Rs. 9 a ton, being 15 per cent. on a tariff valuation of Rs. 60 a ton. The manufacturing firms have asked that a specific duty of Rs. 25 a ton should now be imposed. If imported cement were admitted duty free, the price at the ports would not, apparently, exceed Rs. 50 a ton, and the proposed duty is therefore approximately equivalent to an *ad valorem* duty of 50 per cent. The applicants have informed the Board that the principal market for cement in India is at the great ports, that is, primarily at Calcutta and Bombay, and also at Madras, Rangoon and Karachi. The consumption of cement up-country is smaller than in the ports, but except in Burma, where cement is not manufactured at present, the Indian manufac-

turer is in a better position to hold his own, the advantage he possesses varying according to the distance from the port. The manufacturers anticipate that the proposed duty of Rs. 25 a ton will suffice to retain the whole of the Indian market for Indian cement. It is intended, therefore, to be practically prohibitive.

4. The Board will be glad to receive written representations from all Public Bodies, Associations, firms or persons who desire to be heard regarding the grant of protection to the Cement industry.

Oral evidence will be taken as follows:—

At Calcutta, between the 21st August and the 6th September.

At Bombay, between the 9th and the 30th September.

At Madras, between the 1st and the 14th November.

At Rangoon, between the 19th November and the 2nd December.

It is necessary that those who desire to supplement their written representations by oral evidence should inform the Board with the least possible delay, so that the dates for taking evidence may be definitely fixed. This is particularly important for those who desire to be examined at Calcutta where oral evidence will first be taken. The Board will leave Simla on the 29th July and, after visiting Dehra Dun, Lucknow and Katni, will arrive at Calcutta on the 10th August. The following dates have been fixed by the Board as the latest dates for receiving written representations or requests for taking oral evidence:—

Requests for oral examination at Calcutta 12th August

Submission of written representations by
those who desire to be examined orally
at Calcutta 19th August.

Requests for oral examination at Bombay 22nd August.

Submission of written representations by
those who desire to be examined orally
at Bombay 1st September.

All other written representations . . . 30th September.

The programme for oral examination at Madras and Rangoon will be arranged later. All requests for oral examinations should be addressed to the Secretary to the Board, No. 1, Council House Street, Calcutta, and should be despatched so as to arrive on or after the 1st August, the date on which the Board's office will open in Calcutta.