

### Exports of Iron Ore

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{ Dr. L. M. Singhvi:  
\*356. { Shri Maheswar Naik:  
      { Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken steps in the direction of stepping up the exports of iron ore including those from Goa; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Sub-Committee of the Committee of Economic Secretaries has been set up to go into the question of exports of iron ore and suggest ways and means of augmenting them both on a short-term and a long-term basis. Their report is expected soon.

A number of measures have already been taken in hand to step up these exports from India, including Goa. These include the development of mines and ports, increase of rail movement capacity on various sectors, construction and improvement of roads and entering into long term sale contracts with foreign buyers, particularly with Japan.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Is it a fact that the export of iron ore from Goa has fallen substantially after the end of the Portuguese occupation and, if so, what is the extent of the decline in exports from Goa?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It is true that during the current year, and even before the evacuation of the Portuguese from there, because of this recession in the steel markets throughout the world, the offtake of iron ore from Goa this year, even after we took over as well as before, has gone down by a million tons, but the new contracts which were done by the Portuguese Junta and later on by the Goa Governor show that next year

the rise will be more than offset by another million tons extra.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** What is the targeted value of the export of iron ore during the next year?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The next year's contract from Goa—we are pitching it at about seven million tons. That is against the six million tons average of the last several years and four and a half million tons for the rest of India.

**Shri Maheswar Naik:** In respect of making arrangements for the export of iron ore from Goa, may I know whether the Government is taking any steps for the utilisation of these ores in Goa for manufacturing purposes?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** My colleague, the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, has already made mention of it here—that there are possibilities of pig iron plants there.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know if we have any buyers of iron ore other than Japan?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Yes, Sir. As a matter of fact, 38 countries of the world are buying from us, but Japan is the biggest buyer.

**Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** Is the Government meeting the obligations of the Portuguese Government to export iron ore?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Yes, Sir; we actually made a public announcement that all contracts entered into during the Portuguese junta, either before or after, shall be fully honoured.

**Shrimati Lakshmikanthamma:** In view of the demand for iron ore, will Government take steps to step up the production and also ask the States to conduct geological survey and submit reports, because there are vast resources?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It is very relevant. As a matter of fact, I propose to lay before the House the Joshi

Committee report as soon as it is ready. Actually speaking, the main bottleneck is transport. The development of mines is proceeding quite satisfactorily; various States have appointed Mineral Development Boards and the private sector is also going ahead with the iron ore mines. But the real bottleneck is transport.

**Shri Ranga:** This has been an old complaint for the last 5 or 6 years. May I know what special steps Government are taking, if necessary by themselves giving some special subventions to the State Governments in order to develop road communication?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** For road transport, very liberal grants are being given. In Mysore State, in areas connecting Pondicherry and also in areas connecting Bailadella, road development is going apace. But roads cannot carry long-distance haulage beyond 100 miles. The real solution would be to have broad-gauge railway lines, electric and diesel locomotives and trains, pack wagons, pack trains, etc. All that is being considered.

#### Manufacture of leaf springs

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\*357. { **Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri Kapur Singh:**

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether raw material necessary for leaf springs manufacture is in short supply;

(b) the reasons for creating new manufacturing capacity when adequate resources are not available; and

(c) what steps have so far been taken to explore fully the avenues for the manufacture of leaf springs in the private sector?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Licences under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 2193 (aj) LS—2

1951 are not being granted for this item at present.

(c) Automobile leaf spring are being produced at present only in the private sector, and the available capacity is being fully utilised consistent with the availability of foreign exchange.

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इसमें से कितना कोटा प्राइवेट कंसर्न्स को और कितना गवर्नमेंट कंसर्न्स को दिया जायेगा ?

**The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):** Just now production takes place only in private sector. A licence has been given to the Maharashtra State Transport Undertaking but that has not gone into production.

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसी टीम मुकरर की है जो यह पता लगाये कि इसके लिये कितना रा मैटीरियल अवेलेबल होगा ?

**श्री प्र० चं० सेठी :** रा मैटीरियल के लिये तो कोई चीज नहीं है, लेकिन इस की कितनी खपत होगी इसके बारे में सरकार के पास जानकारी जरूर है ।

**Shri Mansinh P. Patel:** May I know whether Government is aware that after the emergency has been declared, there is a 30 per cent rise in the price of leaf springs?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** We are not aware of this?

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** May I know if the capacity for manufacturing these leaf springs is fully utilised at the moment in the different States?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I do not think the capacity is being fully utilised. That is because raw materials have got to be imported and the import is governed by the foreign exchange availability.