

World Trade Conference

- *133. {
 Shri Hem Raj;
 Shri Vishram Prasad;
 Shri Indrajit Gupta.
 Shri D. C. Sharma;
 Shri P. K. Deo;
 Shrimati Renuka Ray;

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) what is the final outcome of the World Trade Conference held recently at Geneva;

(b) how far the developed countries have agreed to help the under-developed ones to boost up their trade with them and on what terms; and

(c) how far it will help India in her exports to all western countries and those of the European Common Market?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The report of the Indian Delegation to United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has already been laid on the Table of the House on 7th September, 1964.

(b) and (c). The developed countries including the European Economic Community have shown an awareness of the urgent need to assist the developing countries in expanding their exports and proceeding with their economic development programmes and have agreed to take suitable steps to achieve this objective. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Trade and Development Board, the continuing machinery of the Conference, will, however have to evolve concrete programmes of international action to meet the trading needs of the developing countries. It is, therefore, too early to attempt any precise assessment of the extent to which India's exports may stand to benefit from these discussions.

Second Foundry Forge Plant

- *134. {
 Shri Shree Narayan Das;
 Shri M. R. Krishna;
 Shri Ramachandra Ulaka;
 Shri Dhuleshwar Meena;
 Shri B. N. Kureel;
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey;

Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 93 on the 14th February, 1964 and state:

(a) whether the question of establishing a Second Foundry Forge Plant has since been finally considered; and

(b) if so, the nature of decision taken?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Detailed Project Report for this plant is under preparation.

Import of Cement

- *135. {
 Shri S. B. Patil;
 Shri Basappa;
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi;
 Shrimati Savitri Nigam;
 Shri S. C. Samanta;
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa;
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey;

Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import cement to meet its acute shortage in the country;

(b) if so, how much cement will be imported and from which countries; and

(c) what is the annual indigenous production and requirement of the country?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) and (b). A

proposal to import some cement is now under the Government's consideration.

(c) The production of indigenous cement during the year 1963-64 was 9.42 million tonnes against an estimated demand of 11.75 million tonnes.

Stock of Tobacco in Andhra Pradesh

- *136. {
 Shri Eswara Reddy;
 Shri A. V. Raghavan;
 Shri Kolla Venkaiiah;
 Shri P. Venkatasubbalah;
 Shri M. N. Swamy;
 Shri Laxmi Dass;
 Shri P. Kunhan;
 Shri Nambiar;
 Shri Imbichibava;
 Dr. Saradish Roy;

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large stock of tobacco has been accumulated this year in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that have been taken by Government to dispose of the accumulated stock?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). A small stock had accumulated mainly due to:—

(1) Large increase in production of Flue cured Virginia tobacco in India this year.

(2) Shift away from the demand for high grade tobacco from the foreign markets.

(3) Demand from some countries so far having been less than in the previous years.

(c) An Ad Hoc Committee has been constituted to look into the problems of the disposal of the accumulated stocks of the current crop and to recommend to the Government long-term and short-term measures for their solution. Delegations have also been sponsored to East

Europe, West Europe and Africa to explore the possibilities of disposal of the accumulated stocks.

Blast Furnaces for Pig Iron

- *137. {
 Shri D. D. Puri;
 Dr. Saradish Roy;
 Dr. Ranen Sen;
 Shri Dinan Bhattacharya;
 Shri Vishram Prasad;
 Shri Solanki;
 Shri Narasimha Reddy;
 Shri A. S. Saigal;
 Shri M. Rampure;
 Shri K. N. Tiwary;

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether orders have been placed with some Indian Technical Consultant firms to carry out feasibility studies to establish blast furnaces to produce pig iron;

(b) whether the firms selected for the purpose have previous experience in carrying out such feasibility studies;

(c) the cost involved in this project; and

(d) when the reports are expected to be submitted to Government?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). Two firms have already been selected for the preparation of feasibility studies of sites for the proposed blast furnaces to produce pig iron. Both are considered experienced. Government are also considering commissioning a third study.

(c) The total cost involved is Rs. 3.0 lakhs.

(d) The reports are expected by June, 1965.

Indo-U.K. Trade

*138. Shri Indrajit Gupta: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article by