

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