

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

Shri K. B. Lall, India's Ambassador to the ECM countries, published in London, advocating structural changes in the pattern of Indo-U.K. trade; and

(b) whether Government share Shri Lall's view as expressed in the article, that Britain does not enjoy a fair share of India's market?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The article by Shri K. B. Lall has given the factual position about Indo-U.K. trade, which needs to be expanded further.

While emphasising the measures that need to be taken to raise India's exports to U.K.; he has also brought out that India was not unmindful of U.K.'s prospects of increasing their exports to India in the context of India's developing economy.

Export of Groundnut Oil to Burma

*139. { Shri Vishram Prasad:
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:
Shri Bada:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the groundnut oil that India is exporting to Burma is being diverted to China;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Trading Corporation has been negotiating fresh terms with the Burmese Government for further supply of groundnut oil to Burma; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure that no oil exported to Burma is re-exported to China?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Prices of Cotton Textiles

{ Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Kapur Singh:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
*140. { Shri B. P. Yadava:
Shri Dhaon:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri P. K. Deo:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether two leading mills of Bombay have recently increased the prices of cotton textiles by 10 per cent without obtaining a clearance from the Central Government;

(b) if so, whether the increase is justified; and

(c) whether any action is proposed to be taken against these mills?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) to (c). It was reported that some Mills in Bombay and other Centres had, in June 1964, marked up the prices of their cloth by about 10 per cent over the prices chargeable under the Voluntary Price Regulation Scheme. The Textile Commissioner intervened with the Indian Cotton Mills Federation to ask the mills to revert to the old prices. It is understood that as a result of this, the prices of the cloth of those mills have been restored to the original levels.

Directorate of Disposals and Supplies

{ Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Himatsingka:
Shri B. P. Yadava:
*141. { Shri Dhaon:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

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

(a) whether any effort is afoot to streamline procedure relating to