

perts from West Germany and Italy to advise some of our export oriented industries in the production of specified products, like components, spares and other engineering items, processed food and leather manufactures which can be exported to those countries. Engineering products offering possibilities for export to West Germany have been identified and special efforts are being made to arrange for their exports by getting West German importers interested. Expositions are being arranged in departmental stores to popularise our handicraft and handloom products, processed food, tea, spices, cashew kernels etc. The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has established contacts with steel mills in the Community for the sale of iron ore and manganese ore.

(b) In the period April/August 1985 India's exports to the Six countries of the Community were valued at Rs. 21.8 crores and imports from these countries, mostly capital goods, machinery, equipment and industrial raw materials, were worth Rs. 77.4 crores.

Release of U.S. Aid Cargoes

*796. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Embassy has persuaded India to release the U.S. aid cargoes detained during the recent Indo-Pak hostilities; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

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

(b) The question does not arise.

Service Extension to Railway Officers

*797. Shri Shinkre:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

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Shri G. K. Singha:
Shri Sham Lal Saraf:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the speech of the Hon'ble Minister in the last budget debate that Government did not favour the idea of giving extension to the superannuated employees, any extension has been given to Class I employees since then and, if so, to how many and on what grounds;

(b) whether Government are still considering the ill-effect of such extension on the morale and efficiency of the Officers who would have been promoted but for such extension;

(c) whether some Class I Officers who are about to be superannuated or are already on extension have applied for further extension; and

(d) if so, their number and the Departments to which they belong?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Extension of service has been granted to 13 Class I officers in public interest.

(b) This factor is always kept in view.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Location of Pig Iron Plant at Vishakhapatnam

*789. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Messrs. Kuljian Limited in their report to Government relating to the pig iron projects have stated that Vishakhapatnam is not a suitable site for location of a sizeable pig iron plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's decision thereon?