

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?

**The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy):** (a) and (b). M/s. Kuljian Corporation (India) Private Ltd. were asked to study the feasibility of locating large sized blast furnace complexes for the production of pig iron in the following areas:—

- (i) Sindri-Bermo-Ramgarh area (Bihar).
- (ii) Barajamda-Barakote-Bonairgarh-Hirakud-Talcher area (Orissa).
- (iii) Paradip (Orissa).
- (iv) Kakinada (Andhra);
- (v) Rowghat (Madhya Pradesh).
- (vi) Nagpur-Chanda-Pench Valley area (Maharashtra).
- (vii) Jilimilli area (Madhya Pradesh).
- (viii) Haldia (West Bengal).

The area indicated to them were to be looked upon as *prima facie* suitable for the location of such complexes and the indication given was not intended to exclude consideration of other sites which the firm might consider suitable.

M/s. Kuljian Corporation (India) Private Ltd. studied the feasibility of locating a large sized blast furnace complex at Vishakhapatnam on their own initiative in the course of a study of coastal sites for the location of such complexes. While in their Report they have generally commented on the unfavourable cost of assembly of raw materials and of distribution of finished products at the coastal sites, they have also made mention of certain conditions which if they are fulfilled would justify consideration of these sites for the location of such large sized blast furnace complexes. Of the four coastal sites studied by them, viz., Haldia, Paradeep, Kakinada and Vishakhapatnam, they pointed out that raw material assembly costs were lowest for Vishakhapatnam.

(c) The Report is under consideration by the Government.

### Railway Book-stalls

**\*799. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that book-stalls on the Railway Stations on various zones have been monopolised by a few Companies, particularly M/s. Wheeler and Company;

(b) if so, what percentage of book-stalls are being run by that Company and which are the other Companies running such stalls; and

(c) how the books to be exhibited and sold at such stalls are regulated?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath):**

(a) No, Sir.

(b) 65 per cent of the book-stalls on Railways are held by M/s. Wheeler and Company. The names of the other book-stall contractors are given below:

1. M/s. Higginbothams (P) Ltd.
2. M/s. Swadesamitran (P) Ltd.
3. M/s. Gulab Singh & Sons (P) Ltd.
4. The Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh.
5. Jalgaon District Sarva Seva Samiti.
6. The Gita Press.
7. M/s. Mathrubhoomi Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.
8. M/s. Saraswathi Book Depot.
9. Shri B. S. Kulkarni.
10. Shri L. Seshadri.
11. M/s. A. K. Brothers.
12. M/s. Rashtriya Sahitya Mandir Co.
13. Shri Jagan Nath Joshi.
14. M/s. Bhogilal Tanna.
15. M/s. K.M. Agarwal & Sons.
16. M/s. A. H. Pandya & Sons.
17. 64 Individual contractors (holding 1 book-stall each).