

these concessions will operate adversely in the case of Indian trade, a large bulk of which is with the UK, our senior partner in the Commonwealth?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As the House is aware, in the last Commonwealth Ministers' meeting in London, it was stressed without any equivocation that U.K. will not enter ECM by sacrificing any of the preferences that we or the Commonwealth countries are enjoying. They will not remove the reciprocal concessions till commensurate compensation is received by the developing countries of the Commonwealth in the EFTA countries and other Rome Treaty countries for their exports.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Was this statement made before the Indo-Pak hostilities or after?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Simultaneously, *pari passu*.

Shri Subodh Hansda: It appears from the statement that the concessions have been obtained only in regard to agricultural products. May I know whether any attempt has been made to get any concession for non-agricultural products like finished goods?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Only on primary products and some processed goods, we have received concession. On manufactured goods, no concessions have been granted yet. The discussions are continuing.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Under the UK-EEC agreement, duties on tea and tropical hardwoods were exempted or reduced upto December, 1965. May I know whether this agreement has been renewed also?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As I said in the main answer, Mr. Lal, our Minister at Brussels, is taking up the matter for further extension for a period of two or three years.

Shri Kandappan: May I know whether there is any scope or possibility

of export of our handloom fabrics to EEC?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Handloom fabrics are generally exempted from external tariff. It does not apply to handloom products.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: While it is appreciated that the rates for tariff have been reduced, may I know if the sale has not been on a reciprocal basis as far as imports into this country are concerned?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We have been trying this exercise for a long time. Our relations with all the western powers are so friendly, like with other countries, that we have not retaliated in any manner so far.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the European Economic Community exercises its weight in favour of Pakistan whenever there is a question between India and Pakistan, and how many times Pakistan has been preferred to India in these agreements?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I do not remember any single item when they have discriminated between these two countries. There is the recent example of the United Kingdom Agreement with India over textiles. They have been generous I think in keeping our quota of 195 million yards as our quota against 40 million yards or so of Pakistan.

Soviet Team of Coal Experts

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- *482. **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri R. Barua:
Shri R. S. Pandey:
Shri Dhu'eshwar Meena:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:

Will the Minister of Mines and Metals be pleased to refer to the reply

given to Starred Question No. 631 on the 3rd December, 1965 and state:

(a) whether the Soviet team of coal experts visited all the coking coal bearing areas in West Bengal and Bihar in the month of December, 1965;

(b) whether any discussion was held with them with regard to the raising of coal output in the country;

(c) whether they also propose to set up coal washeries in the country; and

(d) if so, whether they have given any detailed outline of the washeries to be set up?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Metals (Shri Mehdi): (a) and (b). The Soviet team visited the sites of National Coal Development Corporation's coking coal projects which have been proposed for Soviet assistance. The discussions with them related to the development of these projects.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri Subodh Hansda: The hon. Minister stated that the Soviet team visited those coal mines in Bengal and Bihar that are run by the Government under the National Coal Development Corporation. May I know whether they were satisfied with the working of those coal mines?

Shri Mehdi: The Soviet team visited only these eight places to see what assistance they could give to them. They did not go to all the coal mines.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether these experts have also visited our coal washeries which are now running at a loss and running below capacity; if so, whether they have suggested any improvement in these?

Shri Mehdi: This team had nothing to do with the washeries.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether this team was invited by the Indian Government; if so, whether the expenditure on them was borne by the Indian Government?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): They came at our instance.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What about the expenditure?

Shri S. K. Dey: I cannot give the figure now. I think the expenditure incurred will form part of the assistance which we expect from them eventually.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Sir, thanks to our Plan, we are reducing the target of coal production even in the NCDC which is our public-sector undertaking. May I know whether this assistance by the Russian experts is to decrease or increase our production?

Shri S. K. Dey: It is to increase the production of coking coal for which there is a great demand and there is shortage in the country.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या हमारे भातवर्ष में कोल के ऐसे एक्सपर्ट्स नहीं हैं कि हमको रशिया से बुलाने पड़े और यदि हैं तो क्या कारण हैं कि हमने इनको बुलाया और इनको बुलाने से हमें विशेष लाभ क्या पंुचा ?

Shri S. K. Dey: The question is not about the Russian experts inspecting our mines. It is to secure assistance for import of equipment in which we are in short supply.

Shri P. C. Borooah: Assam has got large deposits of coal which contains a large percentage of sulphur. If this coal is washed we can get coal as well as sulphur. May I know under what circumstances these Soviet experts were not shown the Assam coal fields?

Shri Mehdi: These Soviet experts came to see whether assistance to the eight projects should be given and what were the needs of these eight projects. Assam collieries were not under these projects.

श्री विठ्ठलनाथ पांडेय : जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि कोयला विशेषज्ञों के हसी दल ने पश्चिमी बंगाल और बिहार के कोक और कोदले वाले सभी क्षेत्रों का दौरा किया है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन विशेषज्ञों ने कोयले की मात्रा बढ़ाने के लिए कोई मध्यवर्ती रिपोर्ट सरकार के पास दी है।

Shri Mehdi: The report of these experts has not yet been received.

Shri R. Barua: We had a previous collaboration with Rumania. May I know how the present arrangement is going to be an improvement on the previous arrangement?

Shri Mehdi: I do not know of any assistance from Rumania.

Shri R. S. Pandey: Taking into consideration the great potentialities of coal in Madhya Pradesh, may I know whether this team has been invited to visit Madhya Pradesh and, if not, why not?

Shri Mehdi: As I said before, this team came specially to inspect the sites of 8 projects and it is expected to give its report to say what assistance they can give.

12.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker: We will now take up the Short Notice Question. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, before you take up the Short Notice Question may I remind you that yesterday we placed before you our position about the short notice question on hunger strike....

Mr. Speaker: That is a different thing.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: You said yesterday that either the Minister will make a statement....

Mr. Speaker: I should not be interrupted like this. Let me dispose of this short notice question first.

श्री रामेश्वरान व : अ यक्ष महोदय, मैं ने एक ध्यान आकर्षण प्रस्ताव

अध्वरक्ष महोदय : धर्मः आप ठहरिये, बँड जाइये।

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Heavy Engineering Corporation,
Ranchi

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S.N.Q. 7. Shrimati Tarkeshwari
Sinha:

Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Kishen Pattnayak:
Dr. Ram Manohar
Lohia:

Shri Maurya:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that another fire broke out in the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi on the 28th February, 1966; and

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made into it?

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) Yes, Sir. Due to leakage of molten metal some cable, a small motor, a ball bearing, etc., in the Foundry Forge Plant were damaged by fire causing a loss of about Rs. 20,000.

(b) A court of enquiry has been appointed to enquire into the causes of this accident and to assess the actual damage.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether the earlier report about a similar fire, submitted by