

Export of Jute

*1305. **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of jute has declined recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to step up its export?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):

(a) to (c). Presumably the question relates to export of jute goods. The value of jute goods exported during 1965 was of the order of Rs. 184 crores compared to Rs. 161 crores in 1964. There is an increase of Rs. 23 crores over the previous years exports. A statement detailing the steps taken to step up export of jute goods is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6121/66].

Bokaro Steel Plant

*1306. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited the Soviet Prime Minister to lay the foundation-stone of the Bokaro Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, whether the invitation has been accepted?

The Minister of Iron and Steel (Shri T. N. Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been proposed that the formal foundation-stone laying ceremony by the Soviet Prime Minister may be performed during his next visit to India.

Sale of Iron and Steel Scrap

4201. **Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation jointly sponsored by Government and the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation of India visited Japan to negotiate the bulk sale of iron and steel scrap; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Iron and Steel (Shri T. N. Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delegation carried out negotiations with Japanese Trading concerns and was able to sell about 100,000 tons of scrap to Japan.

Extraction of Fibres from Banana

4202. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government are planning to extract fibres from banana fronds;

(b) if so, where from the machinery is being imported; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce the scheme in other States also?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Quilon Railway Station

4203 **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madurai Railway Consultative Committee has requested the Railway Authorities to re-construct the Quilon Railway Station since it is out-moded; and

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