

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi): (a) and (b). The value of exports of jute goods in 1965 at Rs. 184 crores showed an increase of Rs. 23 crores over 1964.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-5902/66.*]

Import of Cotton

***785. Shri Kapur Singh:
Shri P. K. Deo:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to centralise the imports of foreign cotton;

(b) if so, the details of the centralised agency; and

(c) how the traders and established importers have reacted to this move?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi): (a) No, Sir.

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

Shortage of Scarce Raw Materials in West Bengal

***786. Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
.. Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri P. C. Borooah:**

Will the Minister of Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of big, medium and small scale industrial units in West Bengal have exhausted their quotas and stocks of non-ferrous metals like copper, brass, lead, tin and zinc and are facing a serious crisis as a result thereof;

(b) whether there is any proposal to modify the provisions of the Scarce Industrial Materials (Control) Order, 1965; and

(c) the steps taken to relieve the present shortage by imports from rupee-payment countries and by import substitution?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under examination.

(c) The import of non-ferrous metals is included in the Trade Plan for 1966 with East European countries. Steps have also been taken to substitute non-ferrous metals as far as possible by aluminium which is indigenously available.

Export of Iron Ore to Japan

***787. Shri Maheswar Naik:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri R. G. Dubey:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps to increase the annual export of iron ore from 12 million tonnes to 20 million tonnes have been decided upon between the Government of India and the visiting Japanese Economic Mission;

(b) whether this decision also envisages integrated development of iron ore mines and the linking of mines with ports; and

(c) if so, the main features of the scheme?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Discussions have been held on the 11th March, 1966 with members of the visiting Japanese Economic Mission about ways and means of further increasing exports of Indian iron ore to Japan on a long-term basis. With the prospect of Japan's imports of iron ore increasing to 66 million tonnes within a few years, we expressed our intention to raise if possible the quantum of our exports of iron ore to Japan to about 30 million tonnes. Apart from the arrangements already being imple-

mented for export of 6 million tonnes through the port of Visakhapatnam, of ore from Kiriburu and Bailadilla, their special attention was drawn to the likelihood of shipments of 2 million tonnes commencing from Daitari mine in Orissa via Paradip Port from 1967, the plans being finalised for the modernisation of port facilities at Mormugao to develop capacity of 8 million tonnes with built-in possibility of expanding to 12 million tonnes, the prospecting in progress on the large magnetite deposit in Kudremukh of Mysore State near the proposed new port at Mangalore, and the possibility of opening a second port outlet at or near Kakinada for additional exports of Bailadilla ore. The Japanese Mission agreed to study these possibilities, which might enable India to supply a substantial proportion of Japan's iron ore requirements on sustained basis.

Delay in completing Steel Projects in Durgapur

*788. **Shri Mohammad Elias:**
Dr. Ranen Sen:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been delay in completing the Alloy Steel Project at Durgapur and expansion scheme of the Durgapur Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to avoid such delay in future; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there was a proposal to instal a Ferro-Alloy Plant at Durgapur and if so, the present position thereof?

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

(b) In the case of the Alloy Steel Plant, it is difficult to pin-point responsibility for the delay, since a number of parties were involved viz. the Equipment suppliers, the Consul-

tants, the plant management, the Structural fabricators and the Site Contractors. In addition, unusually heavy rain in 1964 resulted in slowing down of site work.

In the case of Durgapur Steel Plant expansion, delay in the commissioning of Blast Furnace No. 4 occurred on account of an accident to the Big Bell. There was also some delay in the commissioning of the coke ovens. The delay well, however, be utilised for re-lining of Blast Furnace No. 1. All concerned both in the Durgapur Steel Plant and the Alloy Steel Plant have been advised to profit from the experience gained and to avoid similar delays in future. A closer watch on progress is also maintained to see whether remedial action cannot be taken in time.

(c) Yes, Sir. As a review of the requirements of ferrochrome indicated that the schemes already licensed would be sufficient to meet the anticipated demand of this item in 1970-71, if all of them materialise it was decided that the question of setting up the Plant in the public sector may be re-examined if it is found that any of the schemes already licensed does not make good progress. This re-examination is proposed to be done by the middle of this year.

Foundry near New Delhi with Japanese Collaboration

*789. **Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:**
Shri Himatsingka:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Kobe Steel Company (Japan) has signed an agreement with M/s. U.P. Steel Ltd. of India for the setting up of a foundry near New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) Yes, Sir. The Plant is proposed to be set up at Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh.