

Mineral Ores. Deliveries against these contracts are to be made within specified periods as per terms and conditions of each contract. In certain cases the delivery period can be extended by mutual agreement between the parties. New contracts have to be generally negotiated afresh and are not renewable as a matter of course.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the agreement that was arrived at between the State Trading Corporation of India and the Japanese for the export of ores is going to be fulfilled in the year 1957?

Shri Kanungo: The contract is for a period of five years. As far as the contract for the present year is concerned, it is going to be fulfilled.

Shri Thirumala Rao: With regard to the reply to part (a) of the question, may I know whether there is congestion in Vizag port for the export of iron ore and manganese ore?

Shri Kanungo: As I have said, the congestion is everywhere, in all ports

Shri Nathwani: May I know whether some of the steamers chartered by foreign importers of manganese ore arrived at Indian ports, but the Corporation had no ore to ship and the steamers had to go back without cargo?

Shri Kanungo: Specifically steamers did not go back, but there has been some delay in loading because of the limitations of transport.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Arising out of the answer of the hon. Minister that there is congestion everywhere, in every port, may I know what is being done to remove the congestion?

Shri Kanungo: Port capacities are being increased and transport capacities are being increased according to the means available.

Shri S. C. Samanta: In the *Free Press Journal* of 15th November the matter referred to by Shri Nathwani

has appeared. May I know whether this has been noted by Government, and if the fact is not true whether it has been repudiated?

Shri Kanungo: I have no information about the *Free Press Journal* story as mentioned by the hon. Member, but the fact is that certain loadings could not be done as per schedule.

Printing Press in Kerala

*681. **Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 11 on the 14th May, 1957 and state what progress has since been made in establishing the proposed Government printing press at Koratty in the Kerala State?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): The Kerala State Government are finalising the acquisition proceedings in respect of the land required for the proposed Press.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: By what time do Government propose to start the construction?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: After the land has come into our possession we shall think of starting the construction.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if this press will be in addition to the one we are going to have at Coimbatore?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes, Sir.

Properties of Religious Shrines in Pakistan

*683. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to settle the question of vast properties left by Hindu and Sikh Trusts in West Pakistan; and

(b) how the Government of India propose to compensate such Trusts who have suffered this loss?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) The question of properties left by Hindu and Sikh Trusts in West Pakistan has been discussed at a number of Indo-Pakistan Conferences. The matter is still under negotiation.

(b) The Government of India's Compensation Scheme for displaced persons does not provide for the payment of compensation for trust properties left behind in West Pakistan.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: What has been the policy of the Government of India in respect of Muslim trusts left in India?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Ours is a secular State and in such matters our approach is entirely different. We take a wider view of the problem. Therefore, we have released trust properties in the States of Uttar Pradesh Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Bihar, Orissa and the old Bombay State and Delhi In Punjab also we have made some progress.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: May I know whether this release has been a unilateral act or is under a bilateral agreement, and will this lead to any compensation from Pakistan for the trusts of Hindus and Sikhs left there? May I know the policy of the Government of India in this connection?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The agreement is not of a unilateral nature, it is of a bilateral nature. I said that our approach has been rather broad-based in these matters and we have released the property. As regards the inference to be drawn by the hon. Member to the second part of the question, it is very difficult for me to answer.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Would such a policy bring any pressure on Pakistan to compensate for the Hindu and Sikh trusts left there?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That would be a matter of opinion, and not of information.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: May I know if, the Minister had any talk with the delegation led by the Pakistan Minister recently here?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I did have a talk with the Rehabilitation Minister of Pakistan two or three days ago in Amritsar. There was some difficulty about the interpretation of certain terms of the agreement. First of all, Pakistan was not even prepared to discuss the matter with us. Now they have agreed to discuss this matter, and according to the invitation extended to me, I am likely to visit Pakistan next month.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: In view of the fact that they were not even ready to discuss this, would the Government of India change their policy in relation to the Muslim trusts still left?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: As far as the Muslim trusts in India are concerned, there is no question of a change of policy. I have categorically made the statement that we have released the trusts. Whatever remains will be released very soon.

Export of Cashew Kernels

*634. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government of India to diversify the export of cashew kernels to ensure that the price fluctuations in the U.S.A. do not hamper the prosperity of the industry in general?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): The steps taken to diversify and augment the export of Cashew Kernels have been summarised in the statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix III, annexure No. 2].

Shri V. P. Nayar: Are Government aware that the fluctuating prices for cashew kernels in the U.S. markets result in very speculative buying of raw nuts very often preventing the producer of raw nuts getting his fair