

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) There was some delay and the target of concrete work which was to be completed by 30-6-1957 according to the earlier construction schedule could not be achieved.

(b) (i) Shortage of haulage and transport facilities;

(ii) Shortage of construction and crushing equipment.

(c) and (d). Discussions are being held in Germany for devising ways and means of rectifying the delay in works and ensuring the completion of Blast Furnace No. 1 on schedule.

Agra Cantonment Lands

***227. Shri Braj Raj Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many Cantonment Boards e.g. Agra, military lands are leased out for cultivation, but are in fact used for other purposes;

(b) whether it is a fact that lands leased through public auctions bring to Government many times higher returns than those leased through private negotiations; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to consider the question of giving all such leases in future only through public auctions?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Under the existing Rules, agricultural lands are leased by holding public auctions, which generally bring slightly higher returns to the Government than leases granted by private treaty. During the last few years, when this policy has been under review it was ordered that the existing leases could be renewed on a year to year basis. It has recently been decided that the system of leasing by public auction would be abandoned and lands would be leased out by allotment in suitable economic units.

Iron Ore in Mohindergarh

***229. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to find out the iron contents in the iron ore found in Mohindergarh district; and

(b) the extent of the area where iron ore is present?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir. Samples were collected from the iron ore deposits of Chhapra, Antri and Beharipur in Mohindergarh district in 1955 and analysed in the Geological Survey of India Laboratory. The iron content averaged 60.78 per cent.

(b) The iron ore bands are exposed at the top and along the flanks of a ridge running north-south west of Chhapra, Antri, Beharipur and Zainpur. These bands are 2½ miles long.

German Research Expedition

***230. Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1115 on the 23rd August, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the German team of experts who were allowed to carry on research on rare Indian fauna and flora for German Museum and Scientific Institution have donated any number of collections to the Zoological Survey of India and other institutions;

(b) if so, the nature of such collections handed over; and

(c) whether the team is still working in India?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. About 1367 Vertebrate and invertebrate collections have been donated to the Zoological Survey of India.