

LOK SABHA

Friday, 12th September, 1958

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Export of Manganese Ore

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*1185. { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
 Shri V. C. Shukla:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3374 on the 7th May, 1958 and state the reasons for the shortfall in fulfilling the Manganese Ore tonnage contracted by the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd., both directly and through its Agents upto the 31st March, 1958?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): There is no question of shortfall, Sir. I presume the Hon'ble Member is referring to extension of delivery dates, which, as is generally known, has been necessitated by the temporary slackening of demand in the consuming markets.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: It was stated in reply to a question on the 7th May, 1958 that the total sales were about 5,66,000 tons while the deliveries totalled about 1,34,000 tons. May I know whether the balance has been delivered by this time or whether there is still some outstanding?

Shri Kanungo: As you will realise, two sets of contracts, one ending in

March and the other beginning from April ran into each other and all the contracts are existing and shipping has been going on.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether any penalty or difference has to be paid by the buyers?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir. The delay has been permitted according to the desire of the buyers.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the S.T.C. invites tenders when selecting business associates for export of manganese ores?

Shri Kanungo: This has nothing to do with business associates and tenders are not invited. Market information is taken and contracts are given to the persons who offer the lowest rates.

Shri Panigrahi: What is the price paid for the manganese purchased by these people?

Shri Kanungo: It would not be in the interest of the corporation to disclose that.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: How much has been delivered till now and what is the remaining?

Shri Kanungo: I am not in possession of the exact figure but I suppose about 230 or 240 thousand tons have been delivered.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Is the Government in a position to tell us whether there is any stock-piling and if so what is the quantity?

Shri Kanungo: We have been compelled to stock-pile because shipments have not been effected according to the desire of the shippers.

Shri Jaipal Singh: What is the quantity?

Shri Kanungo: Roughly about three lakh tons.

Shri Damani: The hon. Minister has stated that the delivery was to have been given in March-April. May I know whether at that time we have actually produced that quantity or we were able to produce this quantity only afterwards and if we have produced that quantity on that date, have we charged any compensation for the late delivery?

Shri Kanungo: Our sales were covered by our purchases. As I have said just now, we have got stock-piling in our hands pending shipments. There was no question of asking for any compensation or penalty because, the world market conditions being what they are, we had to accommodate the buyers.

Shri Damani: Our sales are for a particular period and on that basis we have had to purchase. At the request of the buyers we have extended the time. There must be some clause whereby we can get some interest or the expenses incurred on the godowns.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is discussing the whole matter; he is not eliciting information.

Shri Damani: Was any interest or any other amount charged or not?

Shri Kanungo: I have already replied. We have not asked for or claimed any penalty because we want to accommodate our buyers.

Shri Birendra Singhji: May I know whether the stock-piling is due to the shortage on the part of the railways?

Shri Kanungo: The shortage of the railways is known but the delay in shipment is not due to shortage of railway transport but it is mainly to accommodate the wishes of the buyers.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In answer to a previous supplementary question, the hon. Minister has said that it would not be in the interest of the S.T.C. to divulge the figures. But could I know whether the entire supply was purchased at the same price or if there was a difference in prices paid, what was the highest price and what was the lowest price?

Shri Kanungo: I would not like to give these figures because the prices can be calculated from these.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I want to know the difference; I do not want the exact prices.

Mr. Speaker: He has already answered; the hon. Member puts a question leading to the same answer.

Shri V. P. Nayar: He has misunderstood. I wanted the difference in prices. I do not want how much was paid for a ton as the highest price or the lowest price.

Shri Kanungo: I have said that the value of the total exports and the quantity of the total exports are available in the published documents and if I give these figures, the prices could intelligently be calculated from them.

Shri Ranga: May I know whether the manganese ore producers are themselves given a major share of the exports?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir. Quotas for exports independently of S.T.C. are given on past performance whether they are mine-owners or shippers.

Third Five Year Plan

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 *1186. { **Shri Bangshi Thakur:**
Shri Abdul Salam:
Shri Damani:
Shri Sanganna:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 644 on the 5th August, 1957 and state the progress so