

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):**

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). About 300 persons of Indian origin travelling on Indian and U.K. and Colonies passports arrived at Geona on board ss ROMA on 29-10-1959. The Italian Immigration authorities checked their passports and found that 138 of them were travelling on forged passports. The remaining 162 persons were allowed to land. Some of the latter had, at first, difficulty in obtaining visas for transit through France but transit facilities through France and facilities for entry into the U.K. were later arranged and they reached the United Kingdom.

The 138 persons whose passports were found invalid by the Italian authorities were at first refused permission to land. Later, the Italian authorities allowed them to disembark from the ship but detained them. These 138 persons are still in Italy where they have been placed by the Italian Government in two camps. Discussions are proceeding between the Government of Italy and the Government of India in regard to these persons.

#### **Manganese Ore Trade**

\*637. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 531 on the 23rd February, 1959 and state:

(a) how many offers of contingent contracts have been received from the mine owners with reference to the recommendation made by the Committee for promotion of manganese ore trade to the effect that the State Trading Corporation and shippers should enter into contingent contracts with mine-owners; and

(b) the result of the consideration given to such offers?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) None.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Export of Iron Ore**

\*638. **Shri Kalika Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the tonnage of iron ore for export to Japan agreed to be lifted during the year 1959-60;

(b) whether there is not adequate demand for iron ore in the internal market by manufacturers in the public and private sectors; and

(c) whether the price agreed to be charged from parties in Japan is reasonable.

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) About 22 lac tons.

(b) Internal demand of iron ore both at present and in the foreseeable future is small compared to vast reserves available in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

#### **Middle Income Group Housing Scheme**

\*639. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loans drawn by various State Governments in 1958-59 and this year so far from the Life Insurance Corporation under the Middle Income Group Housing Scheme have been utilized only by a few States; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) and (b). The Middle Income Group Housing Scheme was finalised and intimated to State Governments only in February, 1959, and funds released to them in March, 1959. It was necessary for the State Governments to complete certain preliminaries such as formulation of Rules, and organising the method and machinery for the administration of the Scheme, before they could commence disbursement of loans. Many of the State Governments have already