

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) As far as the Government are aware the answer is in the negative;

(b) does not arise.

Mazagaon Docks, Bombay

- *701. { Shri Assar:
 S. A. Mehdi:
 Shri P. G. Deb:
 Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shri Parulekar:

Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have acquired **Mazagaon Docks**;

(b) if so, on what terms;

(c) whether there is any plan to build Naval Ships in these Docks;

(d) if so, what type of ships are going to be built?

(e) whether there is any scheme of expansion of **Mazagaon Docks**; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While the Government would have no objection in disclosing the terms of the acquisition Government consider it necessary to obtain the consent of the vendors to such publication as the transaction is still not free from certain obligations which are outstanding.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is intended to build ships upto the size of a Destroyer for the time being.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) These are still under consideration.

Coal Washeries

*702. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Fuel** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 965 on the 21st March, 1960 and state the further progress since made in the setting up of the two coal washeries at Bhojudih and Patherdih?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Bhojudih Washery:

The contract for the supply and erection of the Bhojudih washery has been concluded for Rs. 1.8 crores, with a foreign exchange element of approximately Rs. 1 crore. In addition, there will be expenditure on a marshalling yard and a township.

75 per cent of the land required for the washery has been acquired. Temporary buildings have been completed. The work on the rail access to the washery site has been entrusted to the Railways and is in progress. Construction of the intake will in connection with the water supply scheme is in progress. The West Bengal Electricity Board has been entrusted with the task of bringing power to the washery site. It is expected that the washery will be in full operation by middle of 1962.

Patherdih Washery:

Tenders for the construction of the washery were opened on 2-7-1960. These are being examined by Hindustan Steel Limited.

The area of the land to be acquired for the washery has been decided upon and estimates of land required by the railways have been prepared. Plans and estimates for the township are ready. Work on water supply scheme and the approach road to the plant and township is also going ahead.