ZINC CONCENTRATE

Sinha 366. Shri Balwant Mehta: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) where Zinc concentrate is prenared in India:

(b) how much of it is exported for extraction annually in tons and where;

(c) what is the percentage of zinc recovery therefrom;

(d) what are the railway freight and shipping charges thereon per ton respectively;

(e) what percentage is retained by the smelter owner and how much is again returned to India;

(f) on what conditions foreigners accept it for smelting purposes and what they charge for it:

(g) what is the position of silver which is mixed therein; and

(h) when the zinc smelter is expected to be installed in India and where?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) At the lead-zinc mines at Zawar in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

(b) 1965 tons were exported to Europe during 1951.

(c) 50 per cent. on an average.

(d) A statement is attached. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 58.1

(e) 55 per cent, of the metal content is returned to India and the balance is retained by the smelter owner.

(f) Zinc concentrates are shipped to Europe on condition that 55 per cent. of the metal content of the concentrate will be returned to India. Government have no information as to what amount it charged for smelting.

(g) A ton of zinc concentrate usually contains 234 gms. of silver.

(n) The matter is under examination by the Zinc (Smelter) Committee appointed by Government.

MICA FROM RAJASTHAN

Sinha Mehta: 367. Shri Balwant Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average output of Mica annually in Rajasthan;

(b) how much Mica and of what value was exported during the last fifteen years from Rajasthan;

(c) whether it is a fact that mica exported from Rajasthan was returned or rejected by foreign dealers last year, being low in quality; and

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(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, why a communique was not issued to this effect to remove this misunderstanding?

Written Answers

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) About 30,000 cwts.

(b) Separate statistics of exports from Rajasthan are not recorded, but as already stated in reply to question No. 935 by Shri Dhulekar the entire production is for export. The average annual production in Rajasthan is of the order of Rs. 150 lakhs.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) Does not arise.

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368. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Will the Minister of Commerce ànd Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirement of Lead in India:

(b) what percentage is met by the exploitation of Zawar mines at present:

(c) how much is expected to be produced when these mines start working in full swing;

(d) where the Lead concentrate from Zawar mines is sent and what quantity is sent for extraction and what is the percentage of recovery thereof:

(e) what are the transportation charges per ton;

(f) how many tons of lead ore and its concentrate have been so far exported for smelting purposes;

(g) how many tons of lead have so far been recovered; and

(h) what is the recovery of silver which is mixed therein; and

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamechari): (a) About 13,000 tons per annum.

(b) About 6.6 per cent.

(c) About 23 per cent.

(d) To the smelter of the Metal Corporation of India in Bihar. The quantities to be moved depend on the smelter's requirements The recovery is about 48.5 per cent.

(e) A statement is attached See Appendix VII, annexure No. 59.]

(f) Nil. Smelting is done in India.

(g) 3,378 tons during the period from 1st January, 1947 to the 31st May. 1952.

(h) Silver is not being extracted at present.