

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Sindri Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. have contracted to sell Calcium Carbonate Sludge to M/s. Associated Cement Companies Limited at Rs. 9-0-0 per ton. The information at the disposal of the Government shows that the cost of limestone used by cement factories in India ranges from Re. 0-88 to Rs. 7-97 per ton.

(b) One other principal firm of Cement manufacturers in India was consulted but they stated that they were not interested in buying the sludge.

METALLURGICAL COAL

*288. Shri A. C. Guha: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the action so far taken for implementing the recommendations of the Metallurgical Coal Enquiry Committee;

(b) the raising of metallurgical coal in the years 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951; and

(c) the quantity of such coal exported to foreign countries and consumed by Indian Railways during those four years?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The recommendations of the Committee for Conservation of Metallurgical coal related mainly to taking early steps for the conservation of the country's resources of Metallurgical coal by compulsory stowing of mines producing such coal, by washing and blending and by effecting a gradual reduction in the output of better grades of Metallurgical coal over a period of years. These recommendations have been accepted by the Government and the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act was passed early this year, empowering the Central Government to take such measures as it may think necessary for the purpose of maintenance of safety in coal mines or for conservation of coal, including stowing for safety, or for conservation or washing of coal with a view to benefiting and reducing the ash-contents of coal and improving its coking qualities. A Coal Board was set up under this Act with effect from the 8th January, 1952, charged with the duty of effectively dealing with the problems relating to safety in mines and conservation of coal and matters connected therewith. The Coal Board has just completed the framing of the rules to give effect to the measures to be taken for conservation of coal and is now engaged in investigating the working conditions of Metallurgical

coal producing collieries, the availability of stowing materials, the possibility of setting up coal-washeries, etc. Pending completion of the investigation of various aspects of coal conservation, the Coal Board has, as a preliminary step, issued orders pegging the production of selected grades of metallurgical coal in 1952 at 7.9 million tons and in 1953 at 7.4 million tons.

(b) The figures of production of metallurgical coal in 1948 are not available, but the raisings in 1949, 1950 and 1951 for all grades of metallurgical coal were:—

	(in million tons)
1949	12.701
1950	12.539
1951	13.665

(c) The figures are :

(In tons)

	1948	1949	1950	1951
Exports	13,472	13,237	96,681	6,43,261
Rail- [*] way consumption (Selected Grades A and B only).	11,47,750	17,19,434	15,10,000	13,50,000

* (From April to December)

SALE OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

*289. Shri Madiah Gowda: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether any book depots, private or public, have been opened for the sale of Government publications;

(b) how many such depots are there in each of the States; and

(c) whether all the publications are made available for sale in those depots?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 13(b).]

(c) All Government of India publications are available in the Kitab Mahal, New Delhi and Book Depot, Calcutta. In all other Depots only important publications are sent for sale.

CONSERVATION OF METALLURGICAL COAL

*290. Shri P. C. Bose: (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state what will be the effect of the

Scheme for conservation of metallurgical coal on the colliery workers?

(b) How many collieries are likely to make retrenchments on account of the Scheme?

(c) What action, if any, Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) It is not expected that the scheme for the conservation of metallurgical coal will have any serious effect on colliery workers.

(b) No large-scale retrenchment is anticipated. The Coal Board will examine the cases of all collieries in order to minimise as far as possible, the need for retrenchment.

(c) The Government do not consider that any further action is necessary.

BY-PRODUCTS OF SINDRI FACTORY

*291. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state what are the by-products of the Sindri Fertiliser Factory?

(b) How are they disposed of?

(c) What is the amount of loss due to wastage if any, of such by-products?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The only by-product in the manufacture of Ammonium Sulphate is Calcium Carbonate Sludge. A large quantity of ash is left over from burning of coal and coke but it is a waste product, and not a by-product of the factory. A small quantity of Coke breeze is also left behind as waste.

(b) The Calcium Carbonate sludge is at present stored with a view to utilizing it for the manufacture of cement. An agreement has been entered into with Messrs. Associated Cement Companies Ltd., under which the sludge will be purchased by them at Rs. 9/- per ton. The Associated Cement Companies Ltd., will put up a cement plant at Sindri for the manufacture of 600 tons of cement per day (initially 300 tons a day).

Most of the ash is at present dumped at the marshalling yard. At one time, it was considered whether the ash would be suitable for stowing purposes in the Coal mines, but it has been found to be not suitable for this purpose as it contains some unburnt carbon. The possibility of using the ash for the manufacture of hollow being explored. Pending this investigation, a portion of the ash is being sold at Rs. 3/- per ton ex-works.

The coke breeze is burnt with coal in the Power House.

(c) There is no wastage of the by-product and the question of loss due to wastage, therefore, does not arise.

RECOGNITION OF GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

*292. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government in regard to the recognition of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany); and

(b) the steps, if any, adopted or in contemplation for promotion of trade between India and the said Republic?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) The Government of India look forward to the unification of Germany and are, therefore, reluctant to take any step which might retard the process of unification. The Indian Embassy at Bonn is a continuation of the previous contacts with that area. It is also due to the fact that India's economic relations with Western Germany are of importance to her. Recognition of the East German Democratic Republic would have a certain implication that India had accepted the division of Germany as final.

(b) No special steps have been taken or are present under contemplation. Trade is proceeding satisfactorily under normal conditions obtaining in both countries.

INDIANS EMPLOYED IN FOREIGN BUSINESS HOUSES IN INDIA

*294. **Shri Meghnad Saha:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether any enquiry has been recently undertaken by Government as to the terms of service, salaries and allowances of Indian employees in comparison to those of Europeans in foreign business houses in this country?

(b) What are the results of this enquiry?

(c) Is it a fact that a larger number of Europeans without the necessary qualifications are being appointed on larger salaries and allowances by business firms particularly by British firms for the past few years in preference to Indians with higher qualifications?

(d) Is it a fact that Indian employees in foreign firms discharging higher and more onerous duties are given lower scales of pay and allowances?