

of places where excavations are to take place till the operations are to commence. Unless and until the entire work of excavation is finished it is not possible to say whether the work in any particular locality has been completed.

#### SODA ASH PLANT

\*413. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply to a supplementary on starred question No. 169 given on the 26th August, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the proposal to set up more Soda-ash factories has been finalised; and

(b) if so, where they will be located?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two factories are proposed to be set up, one at Porbunder (Saurashtra) and the other at Tuticorin (South India). A third factory may also be set up in Bihar.

#### MANGANESE ORE

\*415. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 1000 asked on the 16th September, 1954 and state the extent to which the export of manganese ore has gone up since the abolition of export duty thereon, as compared to that of the corresponding period last year?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** Export of manganese ore has increased after the removal of export duty on 18th August 1954 from 68,000 tons to 115,000 tons in September. A comparative statement showing export of manganese ore during July-August and September, 1954, and for the corresponding period of last year is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 55.]

#### PENICILLIN FACTORY

\*420. **Shri R. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of work done in the construction of the Penicillin factory;

(b) whether it is a fact that the progress of work is much behind the schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check any further delay?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) A statement showing the progress of work in the construction of Penicillin Factory is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 56.]

The essential buildings for production are complete and work of erecting plant and machinery is expected to be completed before the end of the next month.

(b) and (c). It had been tentatively agreed that the target date for the production to start was December 1 last year. But this date had to be revised because of delay in construction and the supply of plant and machinery. This includes delay in procurement of essential materials for construction such as steel and in the finalization of specifications in respect of buildings and plant and machinery.

(d) The Government have at all times taken the necessary steps to facilitate and expedite the supply of essential materials and to speed up the planning and construction work. As I have stated already, the work of the construction of the buildings and the erection of the plant and machinery for penicillin production is now almost complete.

#### TRACTORS

\*422. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any factory in India for the manufacture of tractors; and