

## Manganese Ore

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\*677 { Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:  
 Shri Surti Kistaiya  
 Shri Raghunath Singh:  
 Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:  
 Shri S. C. Samanta:  
 Shri Subodh Hansda:  
 Shri Panigrahi:  
 Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:  
 Shri Morarka:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether the negotiations for bulk sale of manganese ore to U.S.A. against the import of wheat under the barter deal with that country have been finalised, and

(b) if so, the broad details thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Not yet, Sir

(b) Does not arise

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know how long these negotiations have been going on?

Shri Kanungo: They have been going on for several months. But, it will be realised that it is a barter agreement for certain commodities and it has got to be processed through by the U.S.A. Government as well as by our Government. Therefore it takes time, but I can assure the House that we have got the draft already and we believe, in a matter of a few weeks, it will be concluded.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Have the Government negotiated for the sale of our ferro manganese in barter with U.S.A. wheat or is it only the manganese ore that is bartered?

Shri Kanungo: Ferro manganese is also included.

Shri Panigrahi: Were these negotiations meant for exporting low grade iron ores from India to America; if so, may I know whether low grade

iron ores are exported to other new markets?

Shri Kanungo: No, this particular negotiation does not cover iron ore at all; and we are ..

Shri Panigrahi: About manganese, I mean.

Shri Kanungo: It is only manganese ore.

Shri Dasappa: Is it not a fact that our export to U.S.A. of manganese ore has almost doubled over the previous years? May I know whether it has any relation to the import of wheat?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir, unfortunately, within the last 2 years the exports have shown a decline.

Shri Morarka: Since the negotiations for this agreement have taken more than 18 months, may I know the exact decline in the export of manganese ore to this country with which we are negotiating this barter agreement?

Shri Kanungo: It is not 18 months, as I said, it is several months.

Shri Morarka: May I know the actual number of months?

Shri Kanungo: I cannot tell the exact number of months. But, the figures will show that the decline of exports to U.S.A. was of the order of 9 per cent between 1957 and 1958.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know the proportion of ferro manganese and manganese ore that will be exported under this barter agreement?

Shri Kanungo: The negotiations are still pending and I would not like to disclose this.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: May I know the quantity of manganese ore to be exported and also whether the agreement is for any definite period?

Shri Kanungo: As I have said, it is under negotiation; and it will not be in public interest to disclose it.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** The hon. Minister said that there has been a decline in the export to U.S.A. for a long time. May I know whether, by this bilateral arrangement, this decline can be compensated?

**Shri Kanungo:** I do not think fully, because there are many other factors. But, it will certainly help in exporting lower grade manganese ores.

**Shri Panigrahi:** May I know what are the other new markets that the STC has developed for manganese ores?

**Shri Kanungo:** It has been stated in the House several times that there is a recession of manganese trade all over the world.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** May I know the grade of manganese for which these barter negotiations for wheat are being carried on?

**Shri Kanungo:** As I said, it is low grade manganese ore. It is not proper in public interest to disclose further details, at the moment.

**Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:** In view of the inordinate delay in negotiating this agreement with the U.S.A. and in view of earning foreign exchange, especially dollars, what active steps would Government take to conclude this agreement as soon as possible?

**Shri Kanungo:** I have said that the agreement will be concluded in a matter of weeks.

**Hindu and Sikh Shrines in West Pakistan**

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\*678 { **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a meeting after January, 1958 of the Joint Committee set up for the preparation

of lists of Hindu and Sikh religious shrines in West Pakistan; and

(b) if not, when it is proposed to be held and what would be the agenda?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (**Shri Sadath Ali Khan**): (a) The Government of Pakistan have not responded to our invitation extended in February, 1958 for the second meeting. In spite of several enquiries by our High Commission at Karachi, the Government of Pakistan have not yet fixed a date.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** The agreement has taken place as far back as May, 1955. It is now the fourth year going. May I just know whether Government is taking steps for its implementation?

**Shri Sadath Ali Khan:** Will the hon. Member repeat his question?

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** The agreement took place in May, 1955, four or three and a half years back. May I just know if Government has thought of any other way of implementation of that agreement?

**Shri Sadath Ali Khan:** There is no way except to remind them and have a meeting and discuss these matters.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Solvent Extraction of Oils from Oil Cakes**

\*671. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new Units for the solvent extraction of oils from oil cakes have been licensed during 1957-58 and 1958-59 so far;

(b) if so, how many such units have been licensed; and