

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):

(a) Central Excise duty on cotton yarn is not a new levy; it was imposed with effect from the 1st March, 1961 under the Finance Act; 1961

(b) and (c). Under the Constitution the levy of tax on sales or purchase within a State is in the States' field of taxation. Administration of Central sales tax as also the power to grant exemption under it, have been delegated to the States. Any decision to do away with sales tax or to agree to levy of additional excise duty in lieu of it as in the case of cloth has to be taken by State Governments alone.

Coal Transportation by River-cum-Road

***1528. Shrimati Sarojini Mahishi:** Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) what arrangements have been made to move 3.5 million tons of coal by the river-cum-road transport; and

(b) whether any calculations have been made about the additional costs involved in transporting coal by these methods?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). It is proposed to move, in the long term plan, 3.5 million tons of coal from the Bengal/Bihar coalfields to the States in the North by the road-cum-river route. Details of the scheme, including its economics, are being worked out. The cost of transporting coal by this method is undoubtedly expected to be higher than if the movement were by rail; but since there is a large unsatisfied demand for coal, it is expected the consumer will take supplies by the road-cum-river route inspite of the higher cost.

Coal Transportation in U.P. by River Barges

***1529. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:** Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.P. Government have launched a scheme to transport coal by river barges in collaboration with Central Government;

(b) the practicability of the scheme in the rainy season when the rivers are covered with pontoon bridges; and

(c) the details of the scheme?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a). Government of India have under consideration a scheme of movement of coal by road-cum-river route from the Bengal/Bihar coalfields to certain districts of U.P. Studies in this regard are being made in close collaboration with the State Governments concerned.

(b). The scheme is certainly practicable in the rainy season when there are no pontoons.

(c). Details of the scheme are being worked out. Tentatively, the proposal is to move about .5 million tons of coal by road from the Bengal/Bihar coalfields to Bakhtiarpur, Monghyr and Bhagalpur on the Ganga. From these points, the movement will be by the Ganga river to Allahabad and by the Ghagra river to Barhaj. A survey of both the river and road routes is presently in hand, and a final decision on the scheme is expected within about a fortnight.

Scrap Export Policy

***1530.** { Shri Kapur Singh:
Shri Himmatsinghji:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay High Court in a recent judgment while