

large sources of iron ore are being discovered and developed in various parts of the world. So far India has held its position in the Japanese market as the largest single supplier. In 1962 India supplied 4.5 million tonnes out of the total Japanese imports of about 22 million tonnes of iron ore. While the Japanese imports have doubled to 44 million tonnes in 1966, Indian exports to Japan have also more than doubled to 9.69 million tonnes in 1966. This was almost 2 million tonnes ahead of Chile which is the second biggest supplier to Japan. To improve upon this position or even to maintain it, it would be necessary to considerably improve and modernize our port loading arrangements and increase the use of mechanical handling of ore shipments. In keeping with the changes in world steel technology, it would be necessary to adjust to the increasing demand for sinter-feed and also pellets, as compared to natural lumpy ore. Highest priority is attached to the iron ore export programme which is intended to secure these ends.

u Import of Menthol

7992. **Shri K. Ramani:**
Shri Jyotirmoy Basu;
Shrimati Suscela Gopalan;
Shri Umanath:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of menthol has been banned by Government;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a very large quantity of menthol imported against licences issued to some actual users has already arrived in the country;

(c) the names of the actual users and the total quantity and value of such imports;

(d) whether complaints have been received from the Indian producers that they find it difficult to market their produce; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to protect the indigenous industry?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement (Annexure-I) showing quantity and value of actual imports of Menthol during the periods April-March '65 to April-March '67 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1336/67].

(c) A statement (Annexure-II) showing particulars of licences issued for import of Menthol is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1336/67].

(d) No such complaint has been received.

(e) Does not arise.

Export of Tea

7993. **Shri Mohammad Ismail:**
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:
Shri C. K. Chakrapani:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation are considering a proposal to enter export trade of tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the State Trading Corporation is likely to enter the export trade of tea?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) The State Trading Corporation has no proposal under consideration to enter the export trade in tea.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Lack of Co-ordination between Industrial Research and Industries

7994. **Shri Kameshwar Singh:**
Shri A. Sreedharan:
Shri Sri Chand Goel:
Kumari Rajani Gandha:
Shri S. Kundu:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs