

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Binesh Singh): (a) The feasibility of exporting 0.25 million tonnes of Coking Coal to Japan is still under consideration.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Restriction on Movement of Coal

3498. Shri G. C. Dixit: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request for the removal of restriction on the movement of coal from Madhya Pradesh coal fields North of Jhansi has been received; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes.

(b) The request could not be agreed to, as the rational and planned source for coal supplies to destinations north of Katni-Bina-Kotah section is the Bengal/Bihar coalfield.

Any ad hoc movement against the rationalisation scheme in force would upset the existing pattern of movement for which capacities have already been developed. This would thus result in wastage of line capacities and also lead to avoidable cross movements of coal on difficult routes.

The Sub-Committee set up under the Coal Development Council's Committee on Transport, Distribution and Control has already constituted a sub-committee to examine the present restrictions in force for coal movements. Their recommendations are awaited.

Katni-Singrauli-Chopan Railway Line

3499. Shri G. C. Dixit: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) when the Katni-Singrauli-Chopan railway line is likely to be completed and opened for traffic; and

(b) when the section between Chopan and Singrauli coal fields is likely to be completed and opened for traffic?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). Probably the hon. Member is referring to the rail link from Katni to Obra via Singrauli. The Obra-Singrauli section is scheduled for completion by 1st October, 1968, while the target date for completion of Singrauli-Katni portion is 31st March, 1970.

Industrial Units in Andhra Pradesh

3500. Shri Esvara Reddy: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the chronic famine and drought conditions prevalent in Anantapur, Kurnool, Chittoor and Cudappah districts of Andhra Pradesh, Government propose to start some industrial units in these areas to relieve unemployment and distress of the people; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Price of Cloth

3502. Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Rabi Ray:
Shri Kameshwar Singh:
Shri S. M. Joshi:
Shri Sequeira:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different prices are fixed for the cloth of controlled variety produced by different Mills although the count and quality of yarn are the same;

(b) whether it is a fact that the controlled prices of the same quality

of cloth produced by the Biria Mills are higher than the controlled prices of the cloth produced by Tata, Wadia, and Mafat Lal;

(c) the details of the prices for these groups of Mills; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the price differentials?

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

(b) to (d). The maximum ex-factory prices of controlled cloth answering identical quality specifications and manufacturing details are the same irrespective of the manufacturers, unless a manufacturer chooses to stamp prices below the prescribed ceilings.

Trade Fair in Turkey

3503. Shri K. P. Singh Deo: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an International Trade Fair will be held in Turkey during August-September, 1967;

(b) whether Government are participating in the fair; and

(c) if so, the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) About Rs. 15,000.00 in foreign exchange and Rs. 25,000 in Indian currency.

Iron Ore Deposits in Hospet

3504. Shri K. P. Singh Deo: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey was made in the Hospet region of Bangalore to locate deposits of iron ore; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Detailed investigation of iron ores in Ramandurg and Donimalai was taken up by drilling in 1964. The tentative reserves of the ores in Ramandurg area are estimated at 330 million tonnes. The approximate chemical composition of the ore is 63 to 64 per cent iron, 1 to 2 per cent silica, 2 to 3 per cent alumina, 0.08 to 0.09 per cent phosphorus. The work in Donimalai block is in progress.

Jute Mill in Orissa

3505. Shri K. P. Singh Deo: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the plan to set up a jute mill in the co-operative sector in Orissa has been deferred by Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Government had no plan to set up a co-operative jute mill in Orissa.

(b) Does not arise.

Late Departure of Trains from Hubli

3506. Shri S. A. Agadi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the departure of Bangalore-Poona Express, T. No. 203 and Hubli-Guntur Railway passenger T. No. 222 from Hubli was delayed by about 100 minutes on the 1st June, 1967.

(b) whether the above two important trains were delayed due to supply of water to the locos;

(c) since water supply scarcity is prevalent for the past few days at Hubli, the precautionary arrangements made to enable these trains to move in time; and