

(e) the estimated foreign exchange earned as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e): Trade Development Authority, and Organisation set up under the societies' Registration Act under the administration control of the Department of Commerce, had organised a Buyer-Seller Meet at Birmingham (England) from March 2-6, 1980. This Buyer-Seller Meet was the biggest of its kind organised by the Trade Development Authority so far in England. A wide range of industrial products of India was displayed at the Meet which, *inter-alia*, included auto-ancillaries, builders hardware, forgings and castings, diesel engine and parts, electronic equipments and components, hand, small and cutting tools, garden tools, industrial fasteners machine tools and accessories, scientific and measuring instruments, bathroom fittings, bicycle parts, electric motors, fishing equipments, industrial gloves and process control valves. The Meet evoked very good response from the British buyers and according to the first information received from the participants, orders worth about Rs. 3.50 crores were booked on the spot during the course of the Meet. Substantial enquiries were also generated during the course of the Meet.

Increase in price of Copper and Tin

2223. **SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased the prices of copper and tin in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the increase in price of these two metals will have an adverse effect on small scale industries like utensils making industries in the country and also foreign trade; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to safeguard the interests of small and medium entrepreneurs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The prices of copper and tin imported by Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation for sales during March 1980 have been raised from Rs. 34,000/- and Rs. 2 lakhs per M. T. to Rs. 33,000/- and Rs. 2.02 lakhs per M. T. respectively.

(c) & (d): While fixing these prices, the ruling international price, the price paid for the goods already in stock and the price at which fresh stocks are expected to be imported are kept in view, apart from other incidental charges etc. The increase in price is not likely to have an adverse effect on any particular sector of the industry. In the case of export products, direct import of these items is allowed as replenishment like other items canalised through public sector agencies.

Discovery of huge deposits of non-ferrous zinc and lead near Agucha (Bhilwara)

2224. **SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:**
SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge deposits of non-ferrous zinc and lead have been discovered near Agucha Rampura village of Bhilwara; and

(b) if so, the quantity discovered and steps taken to exploit the discovery fully?

*** THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Investigations carried out so far, have indicated a reserve of about 26 million tonnes of zinc-lead ore containing about 10 to 12 per cent zinc and 1 to 2 per cent lead.

Exploration is being continued to assess the potentials of the deposit. M/s. Hindustan Zinc Limited (a Govt. of India Undertaking) has applied for mining lease over the area.

Proposal to modernise steel industry

2225. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:
SHRI LAKSHMAN MAL-
LICK:
SHRI MAGAN BHAI
BAROT:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to modernise steel industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) & (b): Proposals for modernisation through updating of technology innovations and replacement of equipment in the existing steel plants in order to maintain their technical and physical health are being considered by Government on a continuing basis. Having regard to the rapid technological development in the world in the last 25 years, certain proposals are at various stages of consideration/implementation. These are:

(i) Preparation of programmes for the introduction of technological improvements/innovations at Bhilai covering modernisation and up-dating of technology and equipment and processes so as to secure additional production from the existing facilities at minimal cost. A Feasibility Report for this purpose is under preparation.

(ii) A preliminary Feasibility Report to modernise the Rourkela Steel Plant has been drawn up. Presently, some negotiations are going on with a consortium of West German firms for undertaking a study on the modernisation of the plant.

(iii) Discussions are presently being held for the preparation of a comprehensive development plan for the modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant.

(iv) There is also a proposal for drawing up programmes for the introduction of technological improvements at Bokaro Steel Plant as in the case of Bhilai Steel Plant so as to raise its productivity with minimum investment; and

(v) With the object of maintaining production from the hot strip mill of Rourkela installed in 1961, major re-vamping and modernisation of the mill in line with modern technology has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 31 crores.

Except for item no. (v) above, the other proposals are still in various stages of consideration/preparation.

Import of Coking Coal

2226. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to import coking coal during 1980-81 to meet the demand of steel industry in the country;

(b) if so, total requirements of coking coal of the steel industry to attain its production target during 1980-81; and

(c) its value and countries from where to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) to (c): The total requirement of coking coal for the six integrated steel plants to attain their production target in 1980-81 is 17 million tonnes. The question of import of coking coal to augment the indigenous supply is under consideration of the Government.

Non-Implementation of Indian Joint Ventures

2227. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of COM-