

(a) the reasons for which the Japanese buyers of iron ore suspended shipments of Bailadila ore during December, 1976 and January, 1977;

(b) the manner in which matter was finally resolved;

(c) the loss sustained by the N.M.D.C. and whether the Japanese buyers were approached to compensate the loss; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):

(a) With the commissioning of the Visakhapatnam outer harbour the port charges effective from 20th December, 1976, were notified which were significantly higher than the charges which had been levied for the inner harbour. The port charges on vessels which are payable by ship owners and in turn are passed on to the buyers, were considered too high by the Japanese buyers and consequently they suspended shipment from 20th December, 1976. The shipment was resumed with effect from 20th January, 1977.

(b) As a result of discussions between Japanese-Steel Mills delegation and the Indian authorities held in January, 1977, in New Delhi it was decided that provisionally the charges as applicable before 20th December, 1976, would be levied and charges as finally fixed would apply retrospectively. The matter is still under discussion between the two sides.

(c) and (d). Due to suspension of shipments, there was accumulation of heavy stocks of ore at Port and mine-heads and the NMDC had to curtail or suspend production for a few days, resulting in the production loss of 2.63 lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 78.97 lakhs. As mentioned at (b) above the matter is under discussion between the two sides. The Japanese were not approached separately in respect of production loss suffered by NMDC.

Export of Barytes

4464. SHRI K. OBUL REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Barytes exported after canalisation and the quantity exported during 1974-75 and 1975-76, before canalisation;

(b) whether export of Barytes have gone down after canalisation considerably; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take suitable steps to remove the hurdles to step up the export of Barytes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):

(a) The quantity of Barytes exported after canalisation and the quantity exported during 1974-75 and 1975-76 before canalisation is as under. The export of Barytes was canalised from 14th January, 1976.

Year	Metric tons
1974-75	1,41,375
1975-76	1,54,589
(1-4-75 to 13-1-76—1,38,520)	
(14-1-76 to 31-3-76—16,069)	1,56,350
1976-77	

(b) No, Sir. The quantity of Barytes to be exported is, however regulated.

(c) The question does not arise.

Sugar at Bombay, Madras and Visakhapatnam Ports

4465. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of sugar is lying idle at Bombay, Madras and Visakhapatnam ports; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?