

Cut in the Manganese ore Import by Japan

3953. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has decided to reduce its off-take of manganese ore from India during the current year;

(b) if so, whether the extent of cut in the manganese ore import by Japan has been communicated to India so far;

(c) If so, to what extent the cut will be;

(d) whether any delegation in this regard had visited Japan during the month of June 1981; and

(e) whether Japan has agreed to reconsider its earlier decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

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

(d) A MMTC delegation visited Japan in June 1981 to finalise contracts for export of manganese ore to that country during the year 1981-82.

..Slippage in Rourkela Steel Plant

3954. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel project of the Rourkela Steel Plant has become a victim of heavy slippages on the part of a host of agencies entrusted with various aspects of the job;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for the same and who are responsible for this; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that a share of the blame also lies with the Industry Ministry itself for it has taken unduly long to clear certain important proposals as a result of

which there has been abnormal delays in the finalisation of the drawings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Silicon Steel Project under construction at the Rourkela Steel Plant. It is true that the slippages on the part of the various agencies have contributed to delay in the completion of the project.

(b) The main reasons for slippages are delays in equipment supply by some of the public sector undertakings delay in the structural work by fabricators; delay in supply of certified data affecting civil works and inadequate resource mobilisation by some agencies responsible for construction.

(c) Time was taken in ensuring that imports were resorted to only in cases where no indigenous sources were available. Letters of credit could be opened only after getting such indigenous clearance. To this extent, the availability of data for drawings for foreign suppliers was also delayed.

Kudremukh Iron ore product for Romanian Bid

3955. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kudremukh Iron Ore product has opted for Rumanian bid to collaborate in the setting up of its Rs. 120 crores pelletisation plant with a three-million ton capacity at Mangalore

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed;

(c) how many countries had offered for collaboration;

(d) what were the factors responsible for accepting the Rumanian offer; and