

3. Local Costs Projects of which the important ones are	—
	50.5
(i) Rihand STPS	17.8
(ii) Amlori Coal Mines	3.3
(iii) Orissa F.W. Project	2.0
(iv) Fert. Education Project of HFC	22.8
(v) EWS Scheme of HUDCO	19.8
(vi) NABARD/ARDC IV	2.8
(vii) Mysore Forestry	1.4
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Grand Total :	95.3

**Surrender of Landing Powers by Branch Managers of Munger Kshetriya Gramin Bank**

4678. SHRI SATISH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the lending powers have been surrendered by all the 21 Branch Managers of the Munger Kshetriya Gramin Bank to its Chairman ;

(b) whether this is in the knowledge of his Ministry and if so, the circumstances under which they have taken this action ;

(c) whether this has jeopardised the development activities of the State under the 20-Point Programme ; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) Manager/Incharge of Branches of Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank are reported to have addressed communication

to the Chairman of the Regional Rural Bank surrendering their loan sanctioning powers as a protest against some F.I. Rs lodged by District Authorities against some branch officials following complaints of malpractices/corruption. The District Magistrates of Khagaria and Monghyr are endeavouring to resolve the issue and also ensuring continued flow of credit through credit caps.

**Export of Iron Ore Through Paradip Port:**

4679. SHRI CHINTMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the iron trade in India in general and the export of iron ore through Paradip Port in particular, is in doldrum;

(b) whether it is due to lack of interest taken by the buyer countries for inadequate port facilities available at Paradip Port;

(c) whether it is due to the inordinate delay on the part of his Ministry to establish proper Co-ordination with the Ministries of Shipping and Railways for providing proper facilities at Paradip;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to pursue the buyer countries in changing the decision to discontinue export; and

(e) the steps taken to provide adequate port facilities at Paradip?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) (a) Continued recessionary conditions in the world steel industry and the preference of the buyers to shift their imports to ports having better facilities have led to reduced demand for iron ore. Iron-ore exports through Paradip port declined marginally from 9.13 Lakh tonnes in 82-83 & 9.28 lakh tonnes in 83-84.

(b) Inadequate drought at Paradip Port resulting in considerable freight demerit and consequent unwillingness of the foreign buyers to nominate Vessels for this port has resulted in a disadvantage to this port vis-a-vis major iron ore loading ports in other countries as also in India. However, efforts are continuously being made to improve the facilities available at this port in coordination with the Ministries of Shipping & Transport and Railways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In order to increase export of iron ore through Paradip Port, renewed and concerted efforts have been made to persuade buyers to meet their requirement of iron ore to the extent possible from Paradip port and the following recent steps have been taken in this behalf;

For iron ore export through Paradip Port during the current year (1984-85), MMTC has concluded a contract for 5 lakh tons with Japan, South Korea has also agreed to take about 5 lakh tons through Paradip Port during 1984-85. MMTC has concluded a contract with GDR for shipment of 2 lakh tones of iron ore from Paradip Port during 1984-85. As a result of the efforts made by MMTC, exports of iron ore through Paradip Port during 1984-85 are expected at the level of 12 Lakh tons (as against 9.27 Lakh tons during 1983-84). In order to induce the buyers to take iron ore from Paradip Port, MMTC has agreed to compensate them for higher incidence of freight involved for lifting iron ore from Paradip port by giving discount in prices.

(c) The following steps have been taken to provide adequate port facilities at Paradip Port;

- (i) Iron ore loading operations at Paradip Port have been substantially improved with the installation of wagon tippler.
- (ii) The possibility and economic Viability of two port loading,

i.e. initial loading Paradip and uptooping at Madras Port, is being examined by MMTC.

- (iii) Night navigation has been introduced to handle vessels during night time.
- (iv) Government of Orissa in consultation with MMTC are examining the possibility of locating a transhipper-cum-dredger at Paradip Port to augment the loading capacity of the port and to find continuing solution to the problem of siltation.
- (v) Dredgers have recently been deployed at Paradip Port to increase the draft.

#### Trade Fair in Moscow

4680. SHRI K. OBUL REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is holding a Trade Fair in Moscow from the 15th August, 1984, as reported in the 'Patriot' of 14th July, 1984 ;

(b) if so, the number of Indian firms participated in the Fair, and names thereof ;

(c) the names of the countries participated in the Fair ;

(d) who inaugurated the Fair and duration of the Fair ;

(e) the details of the agreements reached between India and various other countries at the fair, value of the agreements and items to be exported/imported ; and

(f) the estimated increase in trade with socialist countries as a result of the Fair ?