

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). There had been some accumulation of stock of pig iron and saleable steel at Bhilai and Rourkela Steel Plants during the last quarter of 1971. However, from January onwards, there was an improvement in the availability of wagons for movement of steel and the bulk of the accumulated stocks was moved out. As on 31-3-72, the stocks of pig iron for sale and saleable steel awaiting despatch were not considerable. In Bhilai saleable steel awaiting despatch was around 22,150 tonnes and pig iron around 24,000 tonnes. The stock of saleable steel represents 5 or 6 days production. In Rourkela, the stock of saleable steel awaiting despatch is around 23,000 tonnes representing about 12 days production.

Sale of wagons by Steel Plants

2079. SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether hundreds of wagons, which can be repaired and used, are being sold by Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur Steel Plants, when there is acute shortage of wagons on the Railways ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir. Only those wagons which cannot be economically repaired and used are offered for sale.

(b) Does not arise.

Indo-Poland Trade Economic Co-operation Agreement

**2080. SHRI P. GANGADEB ;
SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Poland have agreed to expand their economic co-operation and trade in a big way under an agreement signed between the two countries on the 14th January, 1972 ; and

(b) if so, the broad outline of the agreement ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):

(a) During the recent visit to New Delhi of Polish Deputy Premier Jan Mitrega, letters were exchanged with him on 14th January 1972, establishing an Indo-Polish Commission for Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. It is expected that through the functioning of this Commission, the bilateral relations between the two countries will be further strengthened, thus promoting our mutual trade and benefitting our industries and scientific institutions.

(b) It has been agreed that the Indo-Polish Joint Commission will consist of ministerial level representatives of the two Governments. It may set up such Committees at the official level as may be considered appropriate for a detailed discussion of items under consideration.

The main functions of the Commission will be to enlarge areas of cooperation in the fields of its competence. This will be done through joint studies of development programmes and elaboration of measures for collaboration in trade, industry, science and technology as well as through periodical reviews of on-going programmes of cooperation.

Implementation of award for Newspaper Workers

2081. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the Award for newspaper workers has been implemented by various newspaper industries ; and