

Price of Iron Rods in Tripura

622. SHRI DASARATHA DEB :
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether iron rods are being sold at Rs. 245 to Rs. 250 per quintal in Tripura;

(b) if so, the price of iron rods in the neighbouring States like West Bengal and Assam during this period; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check the rising price of Iron rods in Tripura ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) It is presumed that the Hon. Member is referring to steel bars and rods. These are supplied from the main Steel Plants at F. O. R. prices which are uniform all over the country, including Tripura. The price, for bars and rods (excluding flats) 14mm and below in straight lengths is Rs. 1081 per tonne. A substantial quantity of bars and rods is sold by billet rerollers at regulated prices.

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

Indo-Hungarian Economic Commission

623. SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI :
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Hungary have agreed to set up a Joint Commission to explore the avenues of increasing trade and economic cooperation between the two countries; and

(b) if so, when the Commission is likely to be set up ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. When the Prime Minister visited Hungary from the 20th to 23rd June, 1972, it was agreed by the two sides to set up an Inter-Governmental Commission on economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

(b) The Commission will be set up as soon as the details of the agreement are finalised.

Sikkim Government's demand for direct export through Indian Ports

624. SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO :
SHRI HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sikkim Government demanded from India facilities for direct export of its products through Indian Ports and separate Foreign Exchange account with the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Sikkim has requested for a simpler procedure in respect of customs and foreign exchange formalities to facilitate export of Sikkimese products.

(b) The Government of India have informed the Sikkim Durbar that they are always willing to consider modification of the existing procedures to avoid delays.

Agreement with Czechoslovakia

626. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :
SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been reached for long term planning based on increased mutual consultations between India and Czechoslovakia during Prime Minister's visit to Czechoslovakia;

(b) whether the Czech Government agreed to abolish the system of special account which had created several problems for India; and

(c) if so, the nature thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Joint Communiqué issued at the conclusion of the visit, envisages that the Planning Commissions of India and Czechoslovakia will hold periodic