

of all the wagon manufacturers to examine the reasons for the low-output of wagons for export to Yugoslavia;

(b) whether only 15 per cent of the wagons contracted for supply could be supplied so far despite extension of delivery period and if so, whether any further extension of the delivery period has been sought; and

(c) the particulars of the difficulties being experienced by the wagon builders and the steps Government propose to take to remove the hindrances obstructing increased production?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) About 11% of the wagons contracted for have been shipped in semi-knocked-down condition for delivery after assembly in Yugoslavia. Further extension ranging from 6½ months to 17½ months for various manufacturers have been secured.

(c) Main difficulties relate to production aspects, like power shortage, delay in supply of steel casting exel boxes etc. Continued and constant watch is being kept on flow of supply. The production will improve if regular supply of power is assured.

Indo-Malaysian Steel Foundries in Kuala Lumpur

5753. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the first Indo-Malaysia joint venture in Steel foundries went on stream in June this year in Kuala Lumpur;

(b) whether this venture in the countries of South East Asia was sponsored by Government of India or by a private party; and

(c) if so, the salient features, terms and conditions of the agreement and also the share of our Government in that venture in relation to that of Malaysian Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Joint Venture is sponsored by a private party namely, Mukund Iron & Steel Works Ltd., Bombay.

Indian party's participation in the equity share capital is 35%, which is by way of export of plant and machinery from India and capitalization of technical services fees of a small amount.

In addition to the dividend, Indian party is entitled to the technical know-how fees on sales.

Strengthening India's Relations with Neighbouring Countries

5754. SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL : SHRI R. V. SWAMI-NATHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of such neighbouring countries with which India has shown interest for the promotion of trade;

(b) whether India has since settled all the outstanding questions with these countries and if not, in what way India is thinking of improving her relations with them; and

(c) whether any fresh agreements have been reached with these countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). Reference of the Hon'ble Member is perhaps to neighbouring countries viz., Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. India is maintaining very close trade contracts and cooperation with these countries, except Pakistan. India has concluded Trade Agreements/Trade Arrangements with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Iran and Sri Lanka. There is a long term Treaty of Trade and Transit with Nepal. In addition, a Joint Committee on Economic Cooperation has been set up with Sri Lanka and a Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation between India and Iran. Periodical discussions are held with the representatives of these