

These have been decanalised as the benefits of canalisation like advantage of bulk buying etc. were not realised in respect of these items.

Export of Iron Ore.

9475. SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of iron ore exported by India in 1973-74 and 1974-75 and its value;

(b) of this quantity exported, what is the quantity of iron ore mined by N.M.D.A. and the quantity mined by private contractors; and

(c) whether there is any scheme under consideration for the N.M.D.A. to take over the entire mining from private agencies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) India exported 24.4 million tonnes of iron ore valued at Rs. 148 crores during 1973-74. Provisional figures for 1974-75 are 22.4 million tonnes valued at Rs. 165 crores.

(b) 4.2 million tonnes and 3.6 million tonnes during 1973-74 and 1974-75, respectively, were the contribution by the NMDC. The balance quantity was mainly mined by private parties, and to some extent, by State owned organisations, namely, the Orissa Mining Corporation and Mysore Minerals Ltd

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Crisis in Public Sector Industries

9476. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated the 29th March, 1978 to the effect that

there is a crisis in public sector industries in the absence of demand; and

(b) if so, the efforts being made by Government in this direction so as to avoid the possibility of a crisis therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, (SHRI PARNAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) and (b). The article appearing in 'Nav Bharat Times' of 29th March, 1978 discusses the factors likely to affect the demand for goods manufactured in the public sector, in the coming years. While the cut-back in investment necessitated by the stringent resources position and the measures taken to contain inflation are likely to have an impact on demand it is not expected to result in a general recession. In fact, according to present indications the total sales of Central Government companies which rose from Rs. 3992 crores in 1971-72 to Rs. 6810 crores in 1973-74 is expected to maintain the upward trend in the next few years. Some companies may, however, face the need for stimulating demand for their products in order to achieve higher levels of performance. This will be done by greater marketing efforts, diversification and exports. Government have also taken various measures to improve industrial growth by better power generation, supply of critical raw material and components and speedier completion of important projects which have a multiplier effect, etc.

Sons of Soil Formula

9477. SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of Government that 'sons of soil formula' is not for Central units;