

(b) Annual demand as it existed in the last five years cannot be compiled as it would be made up of a large number of individual estimates and enquiries involving both private and

public sectors. However, the foreign exchange earned by export of machinery during the last five years is as indicated below:—

(Rs. in lakhs).

	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67*
Machinery other than electric	238	241	277	401	476	526
Machinery (electric)	102	129	157	246	320	438

(*upto Feb., 1967- only.)

Licence for Mining in Goa

4122. Shri Shinkre: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is too much dissatisfaction among Goans regarding the licencing policy of Government refusing new licences for the exploration of mines in Goa;

(b) whether this policy has deprived new enterprising Goans of exploration of mines and favoured the old privileged class of mine-owners who are instrumental in stabilising former Portuguese regime in Goa; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider sympathetically applications for the exploration of new mines from genuine political sufferers who lost their professional careers during the foreign struggle?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) and (b). Mineral Concessions including prospecting licences are granted in Goa in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. Each application is considered on merits and no distinction is made between existing and prospective mine-owners.

(c) So far, no application from any political sufferer has been received by the Government of Goa. However, if any such application is received, it will be considered on merits in ac-

cordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules framed thereunder.

Pelletisation Plant in Goa

4123. Shri Shinkre: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) names of the mine-owners who have been granted licences for erecting pelletisation plant in Goa;

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange sanctioned for the import of machinery for each plant;

(c) the production capacity of each pelletisation plant;

(d) whether any such plant has started production of pellets and affected consequent exports; and

(e) the difficulties faced by the licencees who have not so far been able to erect their plants?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) No licence is required for the setting up of pelletisation plants under the Industries (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. Government have, however, approved the schemes of two private parties, M/S Chowgule & Co. Private Limited and M/S V. M. Salagnocar & Brother Private Limited, for setting up pelletisation plants in Goa.

(b) An amount of Rs. 232.21 lakhs has been sanctioned for the import of machinery for the plant of M/s Chowgule & Co. Private Limited. The proposal for the import of plant and machinery for the plant proposed to be set up by M/s V. M. Salgaocar & Brother Private Limited is under consideration.

(c) M/s. Chowgule & Co. Private Limited. 0.55 million tons of pellets per annum.

M/s. Salgaocar & Brother Private Limited. 1.5 million tons of pellets per annum (proposed).

(d) Yes, Sir. The pelletisation plant set up by M/s Chowgule & Co. commenced production from March, 1967. 64,632 tons of pellets have been exported from this plant since April, 1967.

(e) The main difficulty at present is understood to be the arrangements for financing the project including foreign exchange requirements for import of machinery and plant.

Small Mine-Owners, of Goa

4136. Shri Shikre: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that small mine-owners of Goa have been let down by M/s Minerals and Mines Trading Corporation of India Ltd., which, instead of buying iron ore and manganese ore from them and thus giving them a helping hand are engaged in transaction with big mine-owners;

(b) whether this has placed these big mine-owners in a very privileged position of buying ore from the small mine-owners at lower rates, which do not compensate their efforts nor expenses;

(c) whether these big mine-owners have started some small Companies to pose as small mine-owners before the Minerals and Mines Trading Corporations and sell the ore at higher prices; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to minimise the difficulties of these small mine-owners?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) No, Sir. M.M.T.C. buys ore in Goa to meet its sale commitments and while doing so gives first preference to the small mine-owners. Only when the supplies of requisite grade and in requisite quantities are not forthcoming from small mine owners does it enter into contracts with other mine-owners, who because of their size of operation, could be called big mine-owners.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is not aware of this.

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction of Mechanisation on the Railway

4137. Shri Ganesh Ghosh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with effect from July 1964 in the Calcutta area, a part of the Traffic Accounting work and a part of the Fuel Accounting work have been mechanised which have resulted in wiping out 126 out of 360 sanctioned posts for these works; and

(b) if so, the action taken to absorb all Clerks made superfluous by the introduction of mechanisation?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Ponnappa): (a) A part of the Traffic Accounting work has been mechanised in stages with effect from July, 1964. The Fuel Accounting work was mechanised with effect from August, 1966. As a result of the above mechanisation of Traffic Accounts, 224 staff out of 963 sanctioned posts in the sections affected have so far been rendered surplus on the Eastern and South Eastern Railways in the Calcutta area.

(b) All the clerks rendered surplus on introduction of Machine Accounting have been absorbed against existing vacancies on the respective Railways.