

(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

4130. 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

4131. 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.