

Setting up of Powerloom Board

814. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **International Trade** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay Powerloom Weavers Association has urged Government for setting up a powerloom Board on the lines of the Handloom Board; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of International Trade (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Powerloom Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of India to enquire into all aspects of the powerloom industry is now at work and is expected to submit its report by the end of this year. The feasibility or otherwise of the setting up of an All India Powerloom Board will be examined on receipt of the report of the Committee.

Steel Production

815. { **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**
Shri Heda:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:

Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering** be pleased to state:

(a) the production of finished steel during 1962-63 and 1963-64 upto August, 1963;

(b) whether the production is rising compared to that in 1961-62; and

(c) if so, by how much?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) The total production of finished steel during 1962-63 was 3.916 million tonnes. During 1963-64 upto the end of August 1963 i.e. in the first five months it was 1.741 million tonnes which works to a rate of approximately 4.2 million tonnes for the whole year.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The production of finished steel during 1962-63 was higher by about 950,000 tonnes than that in 1961-62.

Special Payment Arrangement by S.T.C.

816. Shri Umanath: Will the Minister of **International Trade** be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which special payment arrangements have been worked out by the State Trading Corporation; and

(b) the result of these arrangements?

The Minister of International Trade (Shri Manubhai Shah): The State Trading Corporation concluded special payment arrangements with the following countries:—

1. Lebanon
2. China
3. G.D.R.
4. Yugoslavia
5. Czechoslovakia
6. Rumania
7. Poland
8. Hungary
9. Bulgaria
10. Jordan
11. Mangolia
12. Tunisia
13. U.A.R.

Apart from the above the S.T.C. entered into link arrangements with various foreign firms covering most of the West European countries.

(b) As a result of the above arrangements export business transacted amounted to Rs. 45.30 crores from the year 1957 to October, 1963 and for the same period imports of essential commodities worth Rs. 38.82 crores were arranged.