

(c) Government have presently no specific proposal under consideration to bring the capacity of the Indian owned tyre manufacturing units at par with the foreign majority holding tyre units. However, all assistance is given to make them economically viable units.

Indian Exports

1233. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian exports have shown any improvement;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) how the figure of 1965 compares with that of 1967; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the exports further?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c). The Indian exports (including re-exports) during the year following devaluation (June 1966 to May 1967) at \$1520.0 million were 11.1 per cent lower as compared to the exports during the corresponding 12 months of the previous year i.e., June 1965 to May 1966. Exports during the financial year 1966-67 stood at \$1557.9 million as against \$1692.5 million during 1965-66 thereby showing a decline of \$134.6 million or about 8 per cent. During the 8 months of 1967-68 exports stood at \$1062 million as compared to \$993 million during the corresponding period of 1966 and 1105 million during the same period of 1965.

(d) Details of steps taken to stimulate exports have been given in reply to part (d) of Unstarred Question No. 171 answered in the Lok Sabha on 13th February, 1968.

Nangal Dam-Una Railway Line

1234. SHRI PRAKASH VIR SHASTRI:

DR. SURYA PRAKASH PURI:

SHRI RAMJI RAM:

SHRI SHIV KUMAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh has requested the Central Government for the extension of railway line from Nangal Dam to Una;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) when the work on that line is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (b). No such request to extend the railway line from Nangal Dam to Una has been received from the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh so far. However, a reference regarding extension of a B.G. line beyond Nangal into Himachal Pradesh (i.e., upto Ajauli village) by extending the existing B.G. private siding of the Fertilizer Corporation of India, was received from the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh during the last month and the same is under examination. No decision has yet been taken in the matter.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

इस्पात सौदों के बारे में जांच समिति

1235. श्री मधु लिमये :

श्री वे० कृ० दासचौधरी :

श्री जू० कि० मण्डल :

क्या इस्पात, खाद तथा चातु मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या इस्पात के निर्यात और आयात में हुई अनियमितियों के बारे में

जांच के लिये सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त की गई जांच समिति (इस्पात सीदे) ने जांच पूरी कर ली है ;

(ब) क्या समिति को सरकारी अधिकारियों जैसे राजस्व सम्बन्धी गोपनीय सूचना के निदेशक आदि ने सहायता दी थी जैसे कि लोक सभा में मांग की गई थी ;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) समिति कब तक अपनी रिपोर्ट दे देगी ?

इस्पात, खान तथा धातु मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्र० च० सठी) : (क) जी, हाँ ।

(ख) और (ग). जांच समिति ने वित्त मंत्रालय के राजस्व सम्बन्धी गोपनीय सूचना के निदेशक से पूछ-ताछ की थी ।

(घ) फरवरी, 1968 के अन्त तक ।

State Trading Corporation

1236. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to expand the activities of the State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the new items of import-export trade which the State Trading Corporation has now decided to take in its own hands;

(c) whether the State Trading Corporation has attempted to recruit expert officials and to train new persons before undertaking this work; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). The State Trading Corporation, with directions given by Government wherever necessary, has been constantly endeavouring to expand foreign

trade and build up new lines of export which are not moving on their own, to various markets and to further the export of traditional items to non-traditional markets. S.T.C. also arranges imports of capital goods and industrial raw materials of various types at international prices. They also import scarce commodities required for the country's economic and industrial development.

A few examples of new items of exports which are being developed by the Corporation are:

1. Hopper wagons and Tank wagons
2. Wooden Poles
3. Isoniazid
4. Urea formaldehyde
5. Strychine sulphate
6. Bleaching Powder
7. Transmission towers and Conductors
8. Textile Machinery
9. Power generating equipment, such as hydraulic turbines, alternators and transformers, switchgears and House service meters.
10. Art silk fabrics.

(c) Wherever any new item of trade is taken up, the Corporation makes all attempts to recruit technically trained personnel in that item if expertise is not already available within the Corporation.

(d) Does not arise.

Recession in Engineering Industry

1237. SHRI T. D. RAMABADRAN: SHRI DEIVEEKAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a survey published by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry