

Coal Rates

8933. **SHRI G. S. MISHRA** : Will the Minister of **STEEL, MINES AND METALS** be pleased to state :

(a) the rates at which Government propose to allow the public sector industries to procure their requirements of coal ;

(b) the reasons for keeping the coal price lower by Re. 1 in Madhya Pradesh than the coal procured from Bihar Coal-field when the F. O. R. station of despatch and F. O. R. destination price of coal in Madhya Pradesh is higher than that Bihar due to absence of adequate transport facilities ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Coal Mine owners in Madhya Pradesh have protested against such a discriminatory policy of Government ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to enquire into allegations lodged by the Coal Mine Owners in that part of Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) After decontrol of coal prices with effect from 24.7-67, price of coal is a matter to be mutually settled between the buyer and the seller

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Export of Gums

8934. **SHRI A. S. KASTURE** : Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned by India from the export of gums during the last three years, year-wise ; and

(b) the countries which import gums from India ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Value in '000 Rs. Post-devaluation basis ;

1965-66	45,867.6
1966-67	23,786.8
1967.	16,792.5

(April-Dec.)

(b) The main importing countries are : U.S.A., U.K., Burma, Kenya, Ceylon,

Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Germany West, France, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and U.A.R. .

Doubling of Line from Visakhapatnam to Bailadilla

8935. **SHRI V. NARASIMHA RAO** : Will the Minister of **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of earning from the transshipment of manganese ore consignment by the Railways from Bailadilla to Visakhapatnam in the years from 1964-65 to 1967-68 ;

(b) whether there is a proposal for doubling the line from Visakhapatnam to Bailadilla ; and

(c) if so, the cost involved ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No traffic in manganese ore has so far moved from Bailadilla to Visakhapatnam.

(b) The line between Kottavalasa and Waltair (for Visakhapatnam port) is already a double line. There is no proposal for doubling the line between Kottavalasa and Kidandul, the station serving the Bailadilla mines.

(c) In view of the answer to part (b), this question does not arise.

Price of Jute

8936. **SHRI V. NARASIMHA RAO** : Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state :

(a) the standard rate per quintal fixed by the Agricultural Prices Commission for raw jute during this year ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, jute growing tax was imposed on the farmers by the respective State Governments in spite of the fact that the prices came down during the years 1966-67 and 1967-68 ; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in affirmative, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) The current minimum support price for raw jute