

office premises of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation two years back ;

(c) whether it is a fact that monthly rent of the office premises has been increased from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 30,000;

(d) whether the rates of rent in Calcutta have considerably gone down during the last two or three years ; and

(e) if so, the justification for 500 to 600 per cent increased in the rent paid by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation for its office premises ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Total rent paid by the M. M. T. C. during 1967-68 for its Calcutta office premises is Rs. 20,20,27.78 P.

(b) Rent paid during 1965-66 is Rs. 76,302.60 P.

(c) The monthly rent has increased from Rs. 6,358.55 P. to Rs. 24,319.29 P.

(d) No, Sir. There has been no appreciable decrease in rent in Calcutta area during the last two or three years especially for office accommodation in predominantly commercial areas.

(e) The staff of the M. M. T. C's. Regional Office was housed in two separate buildings as a result of which lot of inconvenience was caused in the smooth working of the office. Besides, the landlord of one of the buildings, in which the Regional Office of the Corporation was housed, had filed a suit for the vacation of the building and the building had therefore to be vacated sooner or later. Since this building was with the official Receiver and the rent of the building was low, the landlord had refused to spend any more on essential repairs etc., as a result of which the Corporation had to put up with a number of inconveniences like unsatisfactory sanitary arrangements, leakage in the ceilings ; worn out electric wiring etc.

When a suitable building which could conveniently house the entire staff became available, it was decided to shift the office to that building.

Export of Manganese Ore from Orissa

9117. **SHRI D. N. DEB :**
SHRI P. N. SOLANKI :

SHRI S. P. RAMAMOORTY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the export of manganese ore from Orissa during the years 1966-67 and 1967-68 ; and

(b) the targets regarding quantity and the amount of foreign exchange earnings fixed in this respect during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) No separate export figures are available as the ore from Orissa is blended with ore from other sources at the ports of Vishakhapatnam and Calcutta prior to its shipment.

(b) The targets for the export of manganese ore are fixed on an All-India basis.

Against an annual export target of 1.2 m. tonnes actual exports during 1966-67 and 1967-68 were as follows :

	Qty. in '000' M/T	Value in Rs. lakhs
1966-67	1185.13	1336.58
1967-68	1042.44	1128.56

Sale of Scrap Iron by Rourkela Steel Plant

9118. **SHRI D. N. DEB :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had given contract for the sale of huge quantity of scrap iron by the Rourkela Steel Plant in 1963 ;

(b) whether the stock was not lifted in time by the tenderer and hence the tender was deemed as cancelled ;

(c) whether any earnest money was received from the successful tenderer ; and

(d) whether the matter is at present before the arbitrator or whether the same has been sold after calling fresh tenders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) to