

कैथोड के रूप में और बाकी 193 मैट्रिक टन कर्णों के रूप में देना स्वीकार किया था। रूसियों ने कैथोड के लिये 28,538 रुपये प्रति मैट्रिक टन (लागत-बीमा-भाड़ा सहित) और कर्णों के लिये 27,400 रुपये प्रति मैट्रिक टन (लागत-बीमा-भाड़ा सहित) का अन्तिम दाम बताया है। एलाय इस्पात संयंत्र, दुर्गापुर को, जिन के कहने पर, सोवियत प्राधिकारियों तक निकल की प्रदाय के लिये पट्टे की गई थी, कर्णों की विशिष्टियों को अपनी आवश्यकता के लिये तकनीकी रूस से उपयुक्त न पाया और केवल 207 मैट्रिक टन निकल कैथोड खरीदने की इच्छा प्रकट की। सोवियत व्यापार प्रतिनिधियों द्वारा निकल कैथोड का बताया गया मूल्य एलाय इस्पात संयंत्र, दुर्गापुर को स्वीकार नहीं। अतः अभी तक किसी संविदा पर हस्ताक्षर नहीं किये गये हैं। मैसूर आयरन एण्ड स्टील लिमिटेड ने 27,400 रुपये प्रति मैट्रिक टन (लागत-बीमा-भाड़ा सहित) की दर से 100 मैट्रिक टन निकल कर्णों के लिये, सोवियत संभरकों को 18 जुलाई 1968 को एक ऑर्डर दिया। सरकार बकाया 300 मैट्रिक टन सोवियत निकल को सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र के अन्य क्रेताओं को, जो इनकी विशिष्टियों और मूल्य को अपनी आवश्यकताओं के उपयुक्त समझते हों, आवंटित करने की सम्भावनाओं की खोज कर रही है।

(ख) इस संबंध में दो सरकारों के मध्य किसी करार किये जाने का प्रश्न नहीं है। संविदा भारतीय—सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी दोनों क्षेत्रों के—क्रेताओं और सोवियत संभरकों के मध्य होगा।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Rail Link between Dalli-Rajahara and Dantewara

397. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL:
SHRI LAKHAN LAL GUPTA:
SHRI A. S. SAIGAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he assured the Mem-

bers of Parliament on the 2nd May, 1968 that a meeting between a senior Officer of the Railway Board and M.Ps. would be arranged to discuss the salient points of the feasibility report on rail link between Dalli-Rajahara and Dantewara in Bastar District;

(b) whether a decision was also taken that the officer of the Railway Board would thereafter hold a detailed discussion in this connection with the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether these discussions have been held and if so, the results thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). Further data for the discussions had to be collected. These have since been completed and necessary arrangements are now being made for the discussions.

Increase in the Price of Coal

398. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to an increase in the price of coal at their meeting held on the 28th June, 1968 with the coal industrialists;

(b) if so, the extent of increase made in the price;

(c) whether the price of coal meant for domestic consumption will also be increased; and

(d) if so, by how much?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) and (b). The Railways have agreed to price increases of Rs. 2 per tonne for Selected grades and Re. 1 per tonne for Grade I coals. As regards coking coals supplied to steel plants, coal washeries and cokeries a price

increase of Rs. 1.75 per tonne has been agreed to.

(c) and (d). The agreements referred to above do not apply to coal meant for domestic consumption. Price being decontrolled, the price of such coals will be as mutually settled by the buyer and seller.

Indo-Soviet Trade

400. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRI CHINTAMANI
PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-Soviet trade is facing certain major problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far the Minister's recent visit to U.S.S.R. is likely to help in solving those problems;

(d) whether Government have examined possibilities for further expansion of trade between the two countries; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b). There are no major problems relating to Indo-Soviet trade. With the recent contract for steel and proposal for purchase of wagons from India by the USSR, Indian exports will increase considerably thereby strengthening our trade relations.

(c) As a result of Commerce Minister's recent visit to U.S.S.R. it has been emphasised that trade between the two countries will be developed further by industrial cooperation, adaptation of the pattern of imports and exports to the changing requirements of the two economies.

(d) and (e). The Government is continuously examining the possibilities of further expansion of trade between the two countries. Efforts are being made to explore new fields of economic co-operation such as the possibility of setting up industries in India with technical assistance and equipments from U.S.S.R. which could sell end-products in Soviet markets. Purchase of new items like ships, aircrafts and other sophisticated machinery from U.S.S.R. is also under consideration. Possibilities of getting more raw materials and base metals from U.S.S.R. are being explored.

Mahalaxmi Textile Mills Ltd., Bhavnagar

401. SHRI D. R. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3673 on the 12th March, 1968 and state:

(a) the names of the Chairman and of the members of the investigation committee appointed to look into the affairs of the Mahalaxmi Textile Mills Ltd., Bhavnagar;

(b) whether the Committee have finalised and submitted their report to Government;

(c) if so, their findings and the action taken by Government thereon; and

(d) if not, when the report is likely to be received by Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) 1. Shri G. N. Vaidya—Chairman.

2. Shri R. N. Bansal—Member.

3. Shri Y. L. N. Achar—Member-Secretary.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The report containing the findings of the Investigation Committee is a confidential document and it would not be in order to disclose its