

of bulk items like Army vehicles| cranes, some of the depots were storing them in the open yards, but security arrangements were available.

(b) Necessary information regarding the losses, if any, is being collected from the stock-holding departments and will be laid on the table of the House.

Export of Engineering Goods

1434. Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of engineering goods has increased or is likely to increase in countries where Government have bilateral trade agreements;

(b) if so, the goods which have great demand; and

(c) whether the State Trading Corporation is in a position to meet the demand of those countries, particularly the East European countries?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The exports of engineering goods to countries with which there are bilateral trade agreements have increased and are likely to increase further.

(b) Following are some of the items that are in demand in the countries with which India has bilateral trade agreements:

East Europe.—Machine Tools, Refrigerators, Air-conditioners, Dry and Storage batteries, sanitary fittings, compressors, etc.,

African and Asian countries.—Steel Semis, diesel engines, bicycles and parts, oil mill machinery, electric wires and cables, Auto and auto parts, electric fans, dry batteries etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Export of Salt to African Countries

1435. Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempt has been made to export salt to African countries;

(b) if so, whether markets have been explored therefor;

(c) which markets have been explored till now; and

(d) whether any order has been received from those countries?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The position has been explored in regard to more than ten countries in Africa. Of these Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya are themselves producing salt and in fact export some salt. Ghana also produces salt in limited quantity and is expanding its salt production. Zambia imports substantial quantities of salt but the movement is only through Portuguese East Africa; similar reasons preclude South Rhodesia. One shipment of 500 tonnes has been made in April, 1966 to Tanzania but further shipments may not materialise as the local Government wish to encourage their own salt industry. One shipment of 4,000 tonnes has also been made to Uganda, and another repeat order of 4,000 tonnes has been received from that country and is being executed. Possibility is also being pursued of producing here, for export to Nigeria, salt of the particular specifications to which that country is accustomed.