

to or participated by India during the Third Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether the expenses of private industrialists participating in those fairs or exhibitions, were borne by Government;

(c) if so, how much; and

(d) which of the Indian goods exhibited were most attractive?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The number of international fairs and exhibitions participated in or organised by the Government of India abroad during the Third Five Year Plan period was 82; in addition, there were some events participated in or organised by the Indian Council of Trade Fairs and Exhibitions, State Trading Corporation, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards etc.

(b) and (c). The total expenditure incurred by the Government on organising the above mentioned 82 Exhibitions during the Third Five Year Plan period was Rs. 2,63,96,957. This does not include the cost of the bulk of the items exhibited which were sent on a consignment basis or for free distribution by the participating firms. The expenses incurred by the other organisations are not available. The participating firms also met the expenses on the deputation of their own representatives to Exhibitions abroad and on the internal transportation of their goods within India.

(d) Non-traditional items such as products of light and medium engineering industries, machine tools, hardware, pharmaceuticals, paper products, floor coverings, footwear, handicrafts, canned products, some categories of textiles etc. have attracted special attention.

Diamond Mines at Panna

455. **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Dr. M. M. Das:

Will the Minister of **Mines and Metals** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempt has been made to find out why the total value of diamonds extracted from the diamond mines at Panna is much less than the investment made by Government since nationalisation, particularly when private owners of individual mines extracted many times more than their investment; and

(b) whether any remedial measures are contemplated so that the mines are worked on a commercial basis and do not escape under the plea of prospecting?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) The Diamond Mining Project, Panna has not yet reached the stage of commercial production, when a regular return on the capital invested may be expected.

(b) National Mineral Development Corporation has taken up small scale mining as distinct from prospecting at Ramkheria and Majhgawan.

Export of Jute Goods

456. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:**
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Dr. P. N. Khan:
Dr. M. M. Das:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri K. N. Tiwary:
Shrimati Renuka Ray:
Shri Rameshwar Tanti:

Will the Minister of **Commerce** be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the repeated public complaints by the Indian Jute Mills Association to the effect that Govern-

ment's inaction is responsible for the loss of foreign sacking markets to Pakistan;

(b) if so, his reaction thereto; and

(c) the reasons why devaluation of the rupee has failed to boost exports of jute goods?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):

(a) to (c). While it is a fact that exports of jute goods to various destinations from June to September, 1966 have been lower than the total exports of corresponding period during 1965, there has been increased exports in certain items to some destinations and reduced exports in others to certain other destinations. In fact the decline in exports has started even before devaluation. The trend is, therefore, a mixed one and is due to a variety of causes, which cannot be solely attributed to devaluation. For, example, the shortage of raw jute and consequent high prices during this period was a major contributing factor. There was also some temporary disturbance in the established pattern of trade as detailed readjustments had to be made to meet the changed situation.

Government has been continuously keeping the position under review and appropriate action has been and will continue to be taken.

Closure of Blast Furnace at Durgapur

**457. Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**

Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Blast Furnace No. 1 of Durgapur Steel Plant has been closed down for a period of three months;

(b) the extent to which this will affect the production of pig-iron;

(c) the progress, if any, made with the repairing and recommissioning of the damaged coke-oven plant; and

(d) whether any enquiry has been held into the causes of the damage?

The Minister of Iron and Steel (Shri T. N. Singh): (a) Blast Furnace No. 1 of the Durgapur Steel Plant has been taken down for relining on the 9th September, 1966. This is the first time since it started operation in December, 1959 and is a normal relining programmes which will take about three months.

(b) Till the relining is complete, there will be no production from this furnace and to that extent, production of hot metal from Durgapur Steel Plant will be restricted.

(c) and (d). Government have appointed a committee to go into this matter and to recommend steps necessary to secure full and efficient performance.

Retrenchment of Workers from Railway Electrification

**458. Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the workers retrenched from the Railway Electrification Project in August and September, 1966 have been provided with alternative jobs;

(b) if not, the number of those not yet absorbed; and

(c) the steps taken to absorb them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) No.

(b) Works Supervisors—18
Material Checkers—23
Casual Labour—258

(c) (1) They have been asked to volunteer for work on Rourkela-durg section.

(2) Casual Labour are also being sponsored for appointment as casual labour on the Eastern Railway in the Permanent Way works.