

seeking conversion of their existing Rupee balances into free foreign exchange. Under the current agreements, such balances are to be utilised by these countries for purchase of Indian goods.

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

Financial Assistance to Increase Salt Exports

3675. SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :
SHRI D. C. SHARMA :
SHRI BENI SHANKER
SHARMA :
SHRI RANJIT SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat have asked for financial help to increase salt exports ;

(b) whether the request has been considered by Government ; and

(d) if so, with what results ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The exports of salt is canalised through State Trading Corporation. The Corporation has agreed to make an advance of Rs. 35 lakhs as loan to the Government of Gujarat for purchase of additional fleet of self-propelled steel barges to increase the loading rate of salt. The agreement to this effect was signed between the Government of Gujarat and the State Trading Corporation on the 5th February, 1969

Paradeep Port

3676. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Paradeep Port is facing prospects of coming to a standstill soon since the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation had failed to enter into any deal with Japan for the export of iron ore during the year 1969-70 ;

(b) if so, the precise circumstances in which the M. M. T. C. failed to enter into the envisaged deal with Japan ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Paradeep Port was mainly developed for handling iron ore exports

(d) the steps that are being taken to ensure that the Port capacity is utilised to the maximum ; and

(e) how far the capacity is likely to remain idle during the year 1969-70 in view of the present circumstances ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). Pending the Commissioning of Daitarimines of Orissa Mining Corporation, iron ore from Barajamda sector is being brought by rail to unloading points like Bhubaneswar on the East Coast line from where it is moved by road to Paradeep. Construction work on Cuttack-Paradeep rail link has also been taken up. In the meantime, the shipment of iron ore from Paradeep has been increased from 6 lakh tonnes during 1967 to about 11 lakh tonnes during 1968. The exports of iron ore through Paradeep are likely to be maintained at the same level during 1969-70. The port has a capacity of handling exports upto 2.5 million tonnes of iron ore.

China's Admission to U. N. O.

3677. SHRI R. K. SINHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Japan has sought India's co-operation in its efforts to secure China's admission to the United Nations Organisation ; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Indo-Ceylon Trade

3678. SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the items proposed for exports to Ceylon and whether their prices are competitive with the items of exports by other countries to Ceylon ;