

realisation on these exports are indicated below :

Year	Quantity (in '000 tonnes)	Value (Expressed in past devaluation rupees in Lakhs)
1964	1,576	2146
1965	1,095	1433
1966	1,348	1619
1967	1,108	1269
1968	1,189	1208

(b) Export statistics for calendar years 1940 and 1950 are not available, as the trade statistics for these years were maintained on fiscal year basis. The following quantities of manganese ore were exported during 1940-41 and 1950-51:

Quantity in '000 tonnes

1940-41 (financial year)	518
1950-51 (financial year)	834

(c) The average daily number of persons employed in the manganese mines in the country is indicated below:

Year	Daily average of persons employed
1964	42,199
1965	45,113
1966	46,983
1967	44,789
1968 (January to May)	39,411

Export of Manganese ore

2461. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons leading to the fall in the export of manganese ore during the last three years and also fall in export price ; and

(b) the steps, if any, taken or proposed to be taken to improve the manganese ore export and the export price?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) Exports of manganese ore during the last three years are indicated below:—

Quantity : in '000 tonnes
Value : in lakhs of Rs.

Year	Quantity	Value
1966	1348	1619
1967	1108	1269
1968	1189	1208

Exports during 1968 in quantity has increased as compared to the exports made in 1967. In spite of severe competition from other sources of supply, M.M.T.C. has been able to maintain exports of manganese ore around 1 million tonnes which is the average of the last few years. However, export of high grade manganese ore have been declining. The main reasons for fall in exports are:—

- (i) Expansion of production of the captive sources (mainly Brazil, Gabon and Ghana) of grades with superior physical characteristics and chemical composition;
- (ii) Emergence of new sources like Australia;
- (iii) Relative handicaps of Indian ore e.g. higher cost of production, longer rail haul, inadequate port, and loading facilities;
- (iv) Closure of the Suez Canal which has increased sea freight by over 82 per tonne for sales to West Europe and USA.

Value of exports had declined because of the fall in international prices as the world production of manganese ore has exceeded demand.

(b) The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation is continuing with its sale

promotion measures to keep a hold on its markets despite unfavourable market conditions. Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation's delegations led by its Chairman have visited West Europe, U.S.A. and Japan to study the market conditions and negotiate sales. They have offered competitive prices and have prevailed upon our traditional buyers to continue buying Indian manganese ore.

At home integrated projects for developing the transport and port facilities are under way. These when completed, would reduce the ocean freight thus improving the competitive character of the Indian ore.

Soviet Land Nehru Award

2462. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that for the last few years, Soviet Land Nehru Award Committee has been distributing prizes to children in the form of one month's vacation in the Soviet Union.

(b) if so, for how many years;

(c) whether in the past, the children who have won the prizes have been given Passports and 'P' forms to make this trip; and

(d) if so, the number and names of children who have gone to U.S.S.R. under the award?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since 1965.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The information is contained in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library, See No. LT-1553/69.]

Purchase of Defective Tyres

2463. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the observations made in the Public Accounts Committee in their Eighty first Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) regarding the purchase of defective tyres; and

(b) if so the action taken by Government to punish the officers and the persons held guilty of negligence and other lapses?

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

(b) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

The action taken in respect of various officers referred to in the Report of the Central Bureau of Investigation is indicated below:—

1. As regards the S.T.C., the Report of the C.B.I. has been examined and it has been decided that no action against any of the three officers referred to in the Report is called for.

2. Department of Supply:

(a) The C.B.I. had recommended that such action as considered appropriate might be taken in the case of the then Director General of Supplies and Disposals. It has been decided that no action is called for against him.

(b) In the case of a Deputy Director, an Assistant and a Section Officer, the C.B.I. had recommended that Departmental action might be taken. Disciplinary proceedings against these officials had been instituted even before the receipt of the C.B.I.'s Report. The oral enquiry against the Dy. Director had been held up because the records had been taken by the C.B.I. This enquiry has since been resumed. In the case of the Section Officer, his statement of defence has been received but a final