

(a) the steps taken to achieve the target set for iron ore export during the Fourth Five Year Plan period ;

(b) whether there had been any increase in the export of iron ore during the last two years ;

(c) if so, to what extent;

(d) the quantity of iron ore likely to be exported during the current year ; and

(e) whether steps have been taken to increase iron ore handling facilities at the major ports and if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) The steps being taken to achieve the Fourth Plan iron ore target cover various concerned sectors viz: rail, mining and ports. In the Railway sector they include completion of the Cuttack-Paradip rail link already under construction and necessary increase in the capacity, including rolling stock, of other existing railway links. In the ore production sector they include commissioning of two new and large mechanised mines on Deposit No. 5 in Bailadila and at Donimalai ; apart from necessary expansion of production in the privately owned mines in various sectors.

(b) and (c). Iron ore exports continue to increase. The exports increased to 17.5 million tonnes valued about Rs. 100 crores in 1969-70 as against 15.9 million tonnes valued Rs. 90 crores in 1969-69 and 14.14 million tonnes valued Rs. 79.33 crores in 1967-68.

(d) It is expected to achieve an export target of 23.0 million tonnes during 1970-71,

(e) In regard to iron ore handling facilities at the port end, deep draft alongside loading berth has already been commissioned in Paradip, capacity of

which is being augmented. Works are in progress so as to commission according to schedule berths at Haldia, Marmagoa, Madras Outer Harbour and Visakhapatnam Outer Harbour.

Production of T. V. Sets

407. SHRI HARDAYAL DEUGUN ;
SHRI YAJNA DUTT SHARMA ;
SHRI PRAKASH VIR SHASTRI ;
SHRI JAI SINGH ;
SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK ;
SHRI RAM SEWAK YADAV ;

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to undertake production of television sets in public sector is under consideration of the Government ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). A number of proposals from public sector undertakings for production of television sets are under consideration.

Import of Sulphur from Poland

408. SHRI G. VENKATASWAMY ; Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Poland has offered to sell sulphur to India which is not readily available in World market ; and

(b) if so, the price quoted for the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b). While sulphur is available from other countries also, Poland has offered sulphur on a competitive basis under rupee payment arrange-

ments. The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation have already concluded a contract for its import from Poland during the current year. It is not in the commercial interests of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation to disclose the price paid.

Production of Textiles, Jute and Rubber Mills

410. SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state the details of production of textile mills and looms Rayon silk mills and looms, spinning worsted yarn and looms (woollen), jute mills and Rubber Mills during the last three years ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Cotton Cloth and Jute in 1969-70

411. SHRI JYOTRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state the production of cotton cloth and Jute in 1969-70 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : The production of cotton cloth and jute during 1969-70 (April-March) was as under :—

Mill made	Cotton Cloth (in million metres)		Jute Goods (‘000’ tonnes)			
	Handlooms & Powerlooms		Hessian	Seaking	Carpet backing	Others Total
4191	3561 (estimated)		313.6	382.3	230.0	107.0 1032.9

Delhi as Dry Port

413. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in declaring Delhi as dry port ;

(b) the details of advantages of dry port envisaged for Delhi ;

(c) the details of the report submitted by the sub-Committee of various Departments and when the final decision is likely be taken thereon ;

(d) the reasons for the delay ; and

(e) whether Government have agreed in principle to declare Delhi as dry port ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK). (a) to (e), The Inter-Ministerial Working Group appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Trade on the question of setting up of a Dry Port at Delhi submitted its report in May, 1970. Apart from the feasibility and viability of the Dry Port, the financial implications are also required to be carefully examined. The report is being examined expeditiously by the Government. It would not however be appropriate to disclose the contents of the Report at this stage when the matter is under examination.

Crises in Art Silk Industry of Punjab

414. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :