

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. It is an ongoing exercise. Some further important measures for conservation of energy proposed to be taken are fitment of wheel flange lubricators on diesel and electric locomotives, use of steered bogies for sections with sharp curvatures, conversion of plain bearings to roller bearings on wagons, use of computer-aided designs for reducing wagon weight, aerodynamic profiling of rolling stock, introduction of Chopper Control on Electric Multiple Units, provision of high speed turn outs, use of high efficiency turbo chargers and fuel-efficient kits on locomotives.

#### **Doubling and electrification of Bangalore-Jolarpettal railway line**

\*336. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the doubling and electrification of Bangalore-Jolarpettal railway line during the current financial year, and

(b) the time by which both doubling and electrification works would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present, for doubling the existing single line section, Kuppam-Whitefield, on Jolarpettai-Bangalore route.

For electrification of Jolarpettai-Bangalore route, a sum of Rs. 4.37 crores has been allocated during 1988-89 and the work is likely to be completed in 8th Five Year Plan.

#### **Export of Iron Ore to Romania**

\*340. SHRI SAMBAJIRAO KAKADE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Govern-

ment has represented about the sale of high-grade iron ore from Goa to Romania;

(b) whether this is cheaper by 2 Dollars per tonne than similar high-grade iron ore being exported to Japan from India;

(c) whether the M.M.T.C. contract with Romania to export low-grade iron-ore through Redi port has been completed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MMTC is not exporting high grade ore to Romania from Goa. However, MMTC exports basic (65/63% Fe) and low grade (62/60%Fe) ores to Romania from Goa. The price for similar grades of ore exported from Goa to Japan is about US \$ 2 per tonne higher than prices for Romania. This is due to the advantages of larger size vessels being deployed by Japanese at Goa and economics of freight due to shorter distance from Goa to Japan in comparison to Romania.

(c) and (d). According to revised Memorandum of Understanding of 8th September, 1988, a quantity of 16 lakh tonnes of iron ore per year was to be exported from Redi till March, 1981. As against this, up to end February, 1989, 3.63 lakh tonnes has been exported to Romania. This is expected to reach 6 lakh tonnes by 31.3.1989.

#### **Indo-Japanese Cooperation**

\*341. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified some areas for greater Indo-Japanese co-operation;

(b) if so, what are those areas;

(c) the amount of Japanese aid expected to be made available for those areas; and

(d) the details of the different projects proposed to be implemented in those areas with Japanese aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Power, telecommunications, irrigation, railways, development of infrastructure industrial growth centres, prawn farming etc.

(c) and (d). The amount of Japanese aid expected to be made available for 1989-90 and the projects to be implemented with such assistance are expected to be known only at the time of the Aid India Consortium Meeting to be held in Paris in the month of June this year.

#### Trade Deficit

\*344. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the latest estimates of export and import in rupees for the financial year 1988-89 and of the likely trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): The provisional aggregate figures in respect of India's trade during the fiscal year 1988-89 are available for the period April-December 1988. According to these figures, India's export, import and balance of trade during this period amounted to Rs. 13926.68 crores, Rs. 20528.38 crores and Rs. 6601.70 crores respectively.

#### HRA to Government Employees

\*345. SHRI NATVARSINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government employees sharing accommodation with other Government servants are granted House Rent Allowance;

(b) whether the spouses and wards of the Central Government employees who share accommodation allotted to their husbands and parents are not granted House Rent Allowance;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to grant the House Rent Allowance to all the Government employees irrespective of the kind of relationships with the allottees of the Government accommodations; and

(d) if so, by when orders to this effect are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) House Rent Allowance is given for compensating the high rents that the employees have to pay for hiring private accommodation. On the other hand, Government accommodation allotted to the Central Government employees is on subsidised rents with large space. HRA is admissible only when the employees incur some expenditure on rent or contribute towards rent. In the case of Government accommodation being shared by the husband/wife and wards/parents, as one of them is a main allottee, the question of contributing or payment of rent