

Accumulation of Iron Ore

*403. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government are aware of the fact that due to inadequate export of iron ore by MMTC from Paradip Port there is heavy accumulation of iron ore at pitheads and at the port forcing a large number of iron ore mines to close down in Orissa, rendering thousands of workers jobless ; and
- (b) if so, what remedial steps are being taken to tide over the crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) :

(a) and (b). Exports of iron ore from Paradip Port during the last three years have remained around the same level. In fact, the exports in 1980-81 were higher than in the previous two years. According to information available with Government only three such mines in Orissa are known to have discontinued production since January, 1981 because of labour trouble or unfavourable market conditions for low grade ores. This does not seem to have materially affected employment position in mining sector in Orissa.

Export Promotion of Indian Garments

*404. DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what steps have been taken by Government to promote Indian garments abroad ; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Some of the important

steps taken by the Government to promote exports of readymade garments from India are indicated below:—

- (i) A separate Export Promotion Council viz., the Apparels Export Promotion Council has been set up by the Government to give specialised attention to promotional measures for increasing exports of garments from India ;
- (ii) The Government encourages and sponsors promotional activities such as market studies, Buyer-seller meets, and participation in trade fairs with a view to getting relevant feedback from overseas markets. A number of such studies have been conducted and meets organised ;
- (iii) Cash Compensatory Support is given on export of certain categories of garments ;
- (iv) The garment export quota policy is being framed with the triple objective of (a) fuller utilisation of quotas ; (b) increased unit value realisation and (c) orderly development of the trade. Various provisions of the policy are flexible enough to be modified according to the demands of trade and patterns of consumers preferences.
- (v) The Import Policy for 1981-82 contains many features to provide greater impetus to exports of textiles and clothing. A range of garment manufacturing machinery has been allowed import under Open General Licence. Entitlements under REP Licences for Import of textile inputs have been liberalised. Certain inputs for the garment industry like blended/mixed fabrics, cotton denims and corduroy fabrics have been permitted under the Advance Licencing Scheme for exports;