

endeavouring to procure orders from the Defence Department for certain instruments and are taking steps to diversify their production programme towards lines where there is demand. It is expected that with a diversified programme, the production level will pick up. Both the Management and the Government are already seized of the problem and the question of appointing a Committee to enquire into the working of the Company does not arise.

India used to export about one million tons of coal to Pakistan before the Indo-Pakistan conflict of 1965. Excepting exports to Pakistan, total exports of coal and coke to other countries have increased from 0.207 million tonnes in 1964-65 to 0.216 million tonnes in 1965-66, and 0.368 million tonnes in 1966-67. Measures for securing increased exports to Burma/Ceylon are being taken. Also possibilities of exporting Indian coal to Hongkong, Japan and other countries are being explored.

Export of Coal

- *1765. **Shri S. S. Kothari;**
Shri S. K. Tapuriah;
Shri P. N. Solanki;
Shri K. P. Singh Deo;
Shri Yajna Datta Sharma;
Shri N. K. Somani;

Will the Minister of **Commerce** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government for stimulating the coal consumption;
- (b) whether there has been a decline in the export of coal during the last two years; and
- (c) if so, how Government propose to step up the export of coal?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi): (a) to (c). The following measures have been taken to stimulate the consumption of coal in the country:—

- (i) Relaxation of price and distribution controls over coal/coke;
- (ii) liberalisation of licensing policy with regard to opening of brick kilns and soft coke depots; and
- (iii) advising the State Government to encourage the growth of coal-based industries and to restrict the use of fire wood and Charcoal in industrial furnaces.

Zinc Smelter near Udaipur

- *1766. **Shri S. M. Banerjee;**
Shri S. S. Kothari;
Shri Madhu Limaye;
Shri George Fernandes;
Shri Onkarlal Bohra;

Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Metals** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the erstwhile Metal Corporation of India had declared that the Zinc Smelter would come into operation in three stages i.e. by July, 1966, January, 1967 and then 3rd quarter of 1967;
- (b) if so, whether the progress at the installation of the Zinc smelter is very slow;
- (c) if so, reasons therefor;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the Zinc Smelter could have come into operation by the first quarter of 1965; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for this abnormal delay?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a), (d) and (e). According to a Memorandum submitted by the Metal Corporation of India to the Government in September, 1963, the Zinc Smelter was to come into operation in September/October, 1964; after the start up operation lasting about three months, the production in the first

year of operation i.e., 1965 was expected to be 60 per cent of the rated capacity of 18,000 tonnes per annum and in the following year i.e., 1966 about 80 per cent of the capacity. However, the company having run into financial difficulties it could not complete the project and commence operation according to the time schedule indicated by it.

(b) and (c). After the acquisition of the undertaking of the Metal Corporation of India with effect from 22-10-1965, the Hindustan Zinc Limited, a Government Company, which was formed to manage the undertaking of the Metal Corporation of India, has made considerable progress in completing the smelter project which is now likely to be commissioned by the last quarter of this year.

Manufacture of Tractors

*1767. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan for a Rs. 25 crore project to manufacture tractors in the public sector had been shelved for the time being;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) when the plan is likely to be put into practice; and

(d) when the country is likely to be self-sufficient in tractors?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A final decision in the matter will be taken after examination of the Report containing the techno-economic feasibility study of the project prepared by the Czech Agency, which is in hand has been completed.

(d) It is expected that near self-sufficiency in tractors will be achieved by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Industrial Licence issued to Birlas

8867. **Shri S. M. Joshi:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Molahu Prasad:
Shri Sheopujan Shastri:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Birla Group was recently issued a licence for the manufacture of mopeds/scooter engines in collaboration with a Japanese firm;

(b) whether the technical advice of Government institutions/semi-Government institutions was against this collaboration on the ground that Indian know-how was available;

(c) whether the Minister of Industries who gave this licence was given 20-25 jeeps in the recent General Elections; and

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been ordered into this irregularity?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) No licence has been issued to a firm in the Birla group for manufacture of mopeds/scooter engines.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The then Minister of Industry has been consulted and there is no basis for the allegation.

(d) Does not arise.

महाराष्ट्र के यवतमाल जिले में रेलवे लाइनों का विस्तार

8868. **श्री देवराव पाटिल:** क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या महाराष्ट्र के यवतमाल जिले में रेलवे लाइनों का विस्तार करने का कोई प्रस्ताव है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो रेलवे लाइनों को किन-किन स्थानों तक तथा कब तक बढ़ाये जाने की संभावना है; और