

states. The matter is under consideration.

(b) and (c). It is somewhat premature to spell out at this stage the details of the project which will have to be determined after the pilot plant investigations and other tests have been carried out.

Export of Coal to Japan

*1164. **Shri S. K. Tapuriah:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in regard to export of coal to Japan and other neighbouring countries;

(b) whether Government are considering a proposal to export limited quantity of coking coal to Japan during 1967-68;

(c) the stage at which the negotiations are going on with the prospective importers;

(d) whether the MMTC alone is authorised to export coking coal or the private producers are also allowed to explore possibilities and export coking coal; and

(e) the incentive/facilities being offered for encouraging export of coking coal?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):

(a) At present coal is exported to Burma and Ceylon only. The possibilities of exporting Indian coal to other countries, including Japan and Hong Kong, are being explored.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Specifications, price indications and samples of Indian coking coal have been given to some Japanese firms whose reactions are awaited.

(d) and (e). Export of coking coal is canalised through the M.M.T.C. The Corporation has suggested a floor price for different grades of coal and have allowed Indian exporters to secure business for exports, assuring that in case they are able to secure

prices higher than the floor price fixed by the Corporation, the benefit of such higher price would go to them.

Over stocking of Cotton by Birla Group of Cotton Mills

*1167. **Shri Kameshwar Singh:**
Shri Suraj Bhan:
Shri P. M. Sayeed:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Birla group of Cotton Mills have overstocked raw cotton;

(b) if so, whether regulations have been violated in this respect;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Birla Cotton Mill at Gwalior purposely burnt cotton stock worth ten lakhs of rupees a few hours before the recent raid by the Enforcement Branch; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):

(a) and (b). A few of the cotton mills belonging to Birla Group are reported to have stocked cotton slightly in excess of the permitted level.

(c) and (d). It is reported that fire broke out in J.C. Mills, Gwalior, at 12.30 p.m. on 16th June, 1967 as a result of which about 1670 bales of cotton were partially damaged. Loss on account of fire is estimated at Rs. 4 lakhs. The cause of fire is not yet known.

India Electric Works, Calcutta

*1168. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Ganesh Ghosh:
Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:
Shri George Fernandes:
Shri Vasudevan Nair: