

मुख्य कारण रुपये का कममूल्यन है;
और

(ग) इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की क्या
प्रतिक्रिया है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री दिनेश सिंह) :

(क) से (ग). 1966 में नेपाल को सूती
बस्त्र के निर्यात में गत वर्षों की अपेक्षा गिरावट
दिखाई नहीं देती ।

Trade with Afghanistan

*714. Shri K. P. Singh Deo: Will the
Minister of Commerce be pleased to
state:

(a) whether Government are aware
that Pakistan is sending a trade dele-
gation to Afghanistan to boost her
trade;

(b) if so, whether visit of the Pakis-
tani trade delegation will have any
effect on the Indian trade in
Afghanistan; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Govern-
ment thereto?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri
Dinesh Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The bulk of our trade
with Afghanistan is on barter
basis. Imports from Afghanistan
are required to be counter-
balanced by export of Indian
goods of equivalent value to that
country. We are aware of Pakistan's
efforts to increase trade with Afgha-
nistan, Pakistan's insistence on the
diversion of Indo-Afghanisthan Trade
except fresh fruits from Afghanistan—
via Karachi is adding to the cost of
transport of our goods to Afghanistan.
However we have to make every effort
possible to meet the competition.

Wrong Specifications of Textiles

*715. Shri Kameshwar Singh:
Shri A. Sreedharan:
Shri P. M. Sayeed:

Shri S. M. Joshi:
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Commerce be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a
number of varieties of textiles, the
Birlas have given wrong specifications;

(b) if so, whether by using wrong
specifications the Birlas have depriv-
ed the Exchequer at the rate of four
paise per metre as excise duty; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this re-
gard?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri
Dinesh Singh): (a) The Technological
Institute of Textiles, Bhiwani, Haryana
(a Birla concern) has been reported
to have produced sarees shorter in
length than the minimum prescribed
for purposes of controls.

(b) and (c). The matter is under
investigation.

Bokaro Project

*716. Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri Nath Pal:
Shri Ramavatar Shastri:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the
Bokaro Steel Plant project is far be-
hind its schedule and as a result
thereof, the plant will not be commis-
sioned before 1972;

(b) if so, the cause of this inordinate
delay and how Government propose to
overcome this difficulty; and

(c) whether Government propose to
appoint any committee to go into this
question?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and
Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) No,
Sir. According to the present indica-
tions, the entire plant is likely to be
commissioned by the end of the fourth
quarter of 1971.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.