

Export of Steel

*119. Shri S. N. Maiti:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

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

(a) the chief bottlenecks in the way of steel exports as envisaged by the Steel Export Committee; and

(b) how these are going to be removed?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) and (b). The Steel Exports Committee has recently reviewed the exports of iron and steel and has discussed the main problems which stand in the way of expanding the export trade. The report of the committee has not formally been submitted to Government. The principal problems considered by the Steel Exports Committee are the following:

- (1) Limitations of handling and warehousing facilities at ports.
- (2) Railway restrictions in transport to the ports. This is frequently linked with the labour troubles at the ports when the offtake is slowed down.
- (3) Inadequate shipping space and uncompetitive ocean freights.
- (4) Other handicaps, e.g., absence of railway freight concession on movement of iron and steel to all ports.

These problems have already been taken up with the appropriate authorities and are under consideration of the Ministries concerned.

Export of Chrome Ore to Japan

*120. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:
Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any agreement with Japan recently for the export of rupees two-crore worth

of chrome ore by the Orissa Mining Corporation through Paradeep;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the chrome ore will be supplied from the Kalarangi Mine in Subinda in the district of Cuttack, Orissa; and

(d) what is the total deposit of chrome ore in the area?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Purchase of Land by Western Railway

471. Shri C. C. Desai: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement dated 25th March, 1965 was entered into between the Ministry of Railways and Sabarmati Oil Mills, Sabarmati for the purchase by the Western Railway of the land at Sabarmati belonging to the Sabarmati Oil Mills and that the price was to be fixed by Shri S. Rodrigues of the General Manager's Office, Central Railway, Bombay;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Shri Rodrigues finally heard the parties on 13-12-1965 and closed the case for decision, which he promised to give within a month from 13-12-1965;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Shri Rodrigues has not, so far, given his decision which he had promised to give by January, 1966;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) when the case is likely to be decided finally and the agreement dated 25-3-1965 implemented?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Purnanaba): (a) Yes; it was, however, not an agreement, but a note of discussion between Shri Anandlal Hargovand Das of Sabarmati Oil Mills