

the Government considered at any time whether Balmer Lawrie and Company should have been placed in charge of the warehouse?

Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi: We are taking it over very soon from Balmer Lawrie and Company.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: The report of the Plantation Enquiry Commission was made in 1956. For 11 years, what were you doing?

Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi: They had an agreement with the Port Commissioner and unless that agreement was terminated, it would be difficult for Government to take it over. Now the Port Commissioner has agreed that no further extension in lease will be granted to them.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that during the warehousing of tea, there is gain in weight to the extent of nearly 2 per cent and, if so, whether Balmer Lawrie and Company have been asked to calculate that in terms of their profit?

Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi: I have to check up this information; I have no information on this at present.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: They want to increase the cess for the Tea Board, which is a white, elephant, in Calcutta.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: What were the specific recommendations of the Plantation Enquiry Commission regarding the control and management of the Public Tea warehouse and how has it come about that in violation of those recommendations so long this warehouse has been controlled or managed by Balmer Lawrie and Company?

Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi: The recommendations are that the Tea Board will take over the new warehouse as

soon as it is ready for occupation and it will run it for a period of 60 years from the dates of occupation. The rent will be Rs. 200 per thousand square feet per month for godown space.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The rent may be too much, but it cannot be a point of order.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: It should be Rs. 2 per 100 square feet.

Mr. Speaker: You are giving information, not seeking information..

Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi: The rent will be Rs. 300 per 1000 square feet per month for store and for office. The Tea Board will also take over the Public Tea Warehouse from Balmer Lawrie and Company from the date of termination of the lease, up to 31st March, 1990.

श्री मोल्लू प्रसाद : मंत्री महोदय क्या बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि चाय बोर्ड में झूटाचार के सम्बन्ध में और भी कोई शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं ? अगर हुई हैं तो उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की है ।

श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी : चाय बोर्ड के सिलसिले में हमारे पास कोई शिकायत नहीं है । अगर उनको कोई शिकायत है तो हम को लिखकर भेजें ।

Export of Iron Ore

*1450. **Shri Kameshwar Singh:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken up a new project to boost the export of iron ore;

(b) if so, whether any other country is collaborating and the capital outlay involved; and

(c) when the work on the project is likely to be started?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Channa Reddy): (a) and (b). Presumably the reference is to the development of magnetite iron ore deposits in Kudremukh area in Chickmagalore district, Mysore. The Government has under consideration proposals for detailed investigations and exploitation of these deposits which have been prospected by the National Mineral Development Corporation. An offer of technical and financial collaboration in conducting metallurgical tests and pilot plant investigations preliminary to commercial exploitation of the deposits has been received from an American firm together with its three Japanese associates. The matter is under consideration.

(c) The details of the project will be determined after the pilot plant investigations and other tests have been carried out. The National Mineral Development Corporation is, however, carrying out exploratory work in the area.

श्री कामेश्वर सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या मन्त्री महोदय बताएंगे कि इस खान से जो लोहा निकलेगा उसके बल्क लोडिंग के लिए किन किन बन्दरगाहों पर इन्तजाम किया जा रहा है और यह कितने सौ प्रति घंटे के हिसाब से ?

डा० चन्ना रेड्डी : मैं सवाल समझा नहीं।

Shri Kameshwar Singh: I want to know at which port this iron ore will be loaded and at how many hundred tons per hour loading will take place?

Dr. Channa Reddy: That is a matter of investigation and the foreign experts who have come here are working out the details because this requires a special arrangement and it may be that the iron ore has to be transferred to the port by a pipe line.

श्री कामेश्वर सिंह : क्या मन्त्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि नेशनल मिनेरल डेवेलपमेंट कौंसिल ने एम० एम० टी० सी० को जितना भी धायरन और सप्लाई करने का वादा किया था मार्च तक, वह क्यों नहीं किया, जिसकी वजह से भारत की प्रतिष्ठा जापान को धायरन और सप्लाई करने की जो रही है वह गिरी है और उसको मूल्य कम मिलता है। इसके लिये कौन जिम्मेदार है ?

डा० चन्ना रेड्डी : जो भी एम० एम० टी० सी० का एक्स्प्लायटेशन नहीं हो रहा है वह सिर्फ कौल कंजेशन की तकलीफ की वजह से है। वाइजग पोर्ट पर भी कंजेशन है और कलकत्ता में भी है। इसलिये यह स्कावट पड़ रही है। प्रोडक्शन नहीं हो रहा है इसकी वजह से यह स्कावट नहीं है।

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Dislocation of Train Services in West Bengal

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S.N.Q. 37. **Shri Bibhutj Mishra:**
Shri Samar Guha:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that all trains to and from Calcutta have been very frequently held-up in West Bengal during the last two months thus causing dislocation to traffic and affecting the industry and trade in the State;

(b) if so, the measures which Government propose to take to check such frequent hold-ups; and

(c) the estimated loss caused to the Railways, industry and trade as a result of such hold-ups during the last two months?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. C. Jamir): (a) There were 111 cases of hold ups of trains carrying passengers in West Bengal on Eastern and South Eastern Railways in May and June, 1967.