

तथा विदेशी उपकरण के ठेकों को अन्तिम रूप देने में देरी होने के कारण भी इस परियोजना के सम्पन्न होने में विलम्ब हुआ।

TRADE WITH U.A.R.

*865. SHRI R. BARUA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached with the U.A.R. for exporting components of cotton mills;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) whether any further avenues for exporting industrial goods and equipment to the U.A.R. have been explored?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b). No, Sir. A firm enquiry for supply of textile machinery has, however, been received and an offer sent.

(c) Yes, Sir. New avenues are always being explored.

KUDREMUKH HIGH GRADE IRON ORE MINES

*866. SHRI M.N. NAGHOOR: Will the the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a thorough investigation regarding the potentialities of "Kudremukh High Grade Iron Ore" Mines has been conducted;

(b) whether it is a fact that several million tons of high-grade iron ore are deposited in this mine; and

(c) whether Government have prepared any pilot project to harness this by arranging suitable collaboration for exploiting this mine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Detailed prospecting operations on the Kudremukh deposits were conducted by the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, in November, 1965 and the work is in progress. The deposits are of low grade ore.

(b) The prospecting so far completed in Aroli Range at Kudremukh has indicated over 600 million tonnes of proved ore.

(c) 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. The offer is under consideration.

MANUFACTURE OF CABLES

*867. SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capacity and know-how to manufacture cables, the imports of which now run to the tune of Rs. 6 crores annually, exist in the country;

(b) the amount by which the imports of cables can be reduced if the existing factories are allowed to manufacture cables required by the Indian Telephone Industries; and

(c) whether Government propose to allow the existing units to manufacture cables which are now being imported?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) There is adequate capacity and technical know-how available in the country for the manufacture of different types of cables. However, imports valued at about Rs. 6.00 crores materialised during the last year due to the following reasons:

(i) Imports were against licences issued before two or three years for certain types of cables for which indigenous development had not taken place or where indigenous production was not adequate to meet the demand;

(ii) The imports of power cables were permitted against Project or transmission loans when there was inadequate availability of foreign exchange for the import of copper aluminium, lead etc. and where these loans could not be utilised for the import of raw materials;

(iii) Cables were imported in turn-key jobs in public sector. As indigenous development has since considerably progressed, no clearance is given for the import of cables even for turn-key jobs in the public sector at present and clearance is accorded only when imports become inescapable