

क्या 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

and for special type of cables which are not being produced indigenously. It may be added that the import of Rs. 6.00 crores during the last year constitute about 6% of the total production in the country.

(b) The existing units in the private sector are not adequate for the manufacture of cables required for telecommunication purposes, without installation of balancing plant and equipment. The aggregate requirement of balancing equipment of all the cable manufacturers in the private sector to undertake manufacture of those cables would be considerable.

(c) Under the present policy of diversification announced by Government, existing units are allowed to diversify their production to take up the manufacture of any type of cables and wires with their existing equipment up to 25% of their licensed capacity.

#### HOWRAH RAILWAY YARD

\*868. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Howrah Railway Yard is full of wagons which are not being unloaded by the businessmen concerned;

(b) whether due to the above unloading of wagons, a large number of articles kept for transhipment to the various places are still at Howrah for more than a month;

(c) whether many of the affected traders have written to the Eastern Railway Administration and the Railway Board for the payment of prices of articles and freight charges; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Sometime back, there was accumulation of wagons in the yard at Howrah because the consignments unloaded were not being removed and release of further wagons was, in consequence, affected. There is no congestion now.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of the reply to part (c), the question does not arise.

#### DISMANTLING OF NERAL-MATHERAN RAILWAY LINE

\*869. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to dismantle the Neral-Matheran Railway track and/or discontinue the Neral-Matheran train service;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any protest from the local people against this move; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the difficulties the people of Matheran will be put to, if the railway line is discontinued?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b). The question is under examination as the line has been running at a loss.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) All aspects will be carefully considered before arriving at a decision.

#### EXPORT OF JUTE AND COTTON

\*870. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has abolished 10 per cent export duty on jute and cotton as a consequence of the devaluation of the pound sterling; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to see that the export of jute and cotton from India does not fall?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b). Pakistan has abolished the export duty of 10% on raw jute and raw cotton after the devaluation of the pound sterling.

It is however not proposed, to reduce the export duty on raw cotton to meet the situation. There is no export duty on raw jute.

#### SICK TEXTILE MILLS

5413. SHRI BABURAO PATEL:  
SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR:  
SHRI D. R. PARMAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of 'sick' textile mills in India, State-wise, with their assets