

- (ii) Assistance is given by way of drawback of customs and excise duties.
- (iii) The Handlooms and Handicrafts Export Corporation (a public sector Corporation) has opened Carpet Warehouses and Depot facilities, in overseas countries.
- (iv) These products are displayed in exhibitions abroad organised by the Government of India.
- (v) Studies have been made in the overseas markets for export of carpets and *namdas*.

Coal Washery in Bihar

*654. SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU-DHURI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a new Coal Washery plant is to be set up in Bihar by an Indian firm, M/s, Bird and Company (P) Limited, in collaboration with an American engineering firm under the name and style of McNally-Bird Engineering Company;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of this new project and the percentage in the capital outlay of each of the collaborating firms;

(c) the source for providing the finance required;

(d) the details of the items proposed to be manufactured by the new Company; and

(e) the approximate initial annual production thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) to (e). Do not arise

Imports of Zinc and Copper

*655. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of copper and zinc proposed to be imported during the current year;

(b) the quantities already imported so far;

(c) the countries from which their imports are proposed and the extent of imports from each of them;

(d) how much of these imports have been made through the State Trading Corporation and by the actual users direct;

(e) how do average import prices of these metals by the State Trading Corporation and by the actual users compare; and

(f) whether the import prices of State Trading Corporation are higher than those bargained by the actual users?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) The estimated quantity of copper and zinc proposed to be imported during the current year is about 68,000 and Rs. 58,000 tonnes respectively.

(b) 12,106 tonnes of copper and 46,000 tonnes of zinc or spelter have been imported during 1968-69 upto August, 1968.

(c) Statement showing the countries from which imports of copper and zinc are likely to be made through M. M. T. C. is attached. It is not possible to indicate at this stage the countries of import in respect of actual user licences.

(d) 3,300 tonnes of copper and 19,310 tonnes of zinc have already been imported by the M. M. T. C. Approximately 25 to 30 per cent of the country's imports of these metals are handled by M. M. T. C. and the rest by the actual users. The exact figures for the actual users are not separately available.

(e) and (f) . The average import prices of M. M. T. C. compare well with and are not higher than those of actual users.