

(b) whether the quantity of pig iron issued to the contractors was much in excess of what was agreed to;

(c) whether this job was carried out by the contractors in a period spread over 7 years;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Railways neither recovered the excess pig iron nor they realised any damages from the firm;

(e) if so, whether any investigation has been conducted in this respect; and

(f) if so, the result thereof and the total loss suffered by the Railways on this deal?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The firm had been issued 870 tons of pig iron in excess, but on payment of its full cost, as the cost of the pig iron against the contract was to be borne by the firm.

(c) No, Sir. It was completed in a period of less than two years from the time the contract was awarded.

(d) No, Sir. This excess was adjusted against a subsequent order placed in 1961 by issuing correspondingly less pig iron against that order.

(e) and (f). Special investigations were instituted by the Railway when the excess issue came to its notice. This excess was adjusted against a subsequent order by issuing correspondingly less pig iron against that order. Pig iron continued to be a controlled commodity in 1961 also and there was no difference in controlled price between 1957 and 1961.

Mining of Tungsten in Rajasthan

*267. Shri Deven Sen: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tungsten is being mined by the Government

of Rajasthan/or a Company controlled by that Government for the past few years;

(b) if so, the rates at which the output was sold to private parties from time to time;

(c) whether this was ever sold to the Central Government or their Defence Establishments;

(d) if so, the quantity and rates thereof; and

(e) the reasons for the difference in prices charged from private parties and the prices charged from Government?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) Tungsten is mined by the Department of Mines and Geology of the Government of Rajasthan.

(b) The selling rates per tonne were Rs. 9,000 during 9th August, 1963 to 26th August, 1965, Rs. 13,500 during 27th August, 1965 to 20th May, 1966, Rs. 17,200 during 21st May, 1966 to 26th February, 1967 and Rs. 24,000 from 27th February, 1967 onwards.

(c) and (d). During the period 27th August, 1965 to 20th May, 1966, 6.25 tonnes were sold to Central Government Departments at Rs. 13,500 per tonne.

(e) There is no difference in the selling price of tungsten concentrates to private parties and Government Departments, during the same period of time.

Demand and Production of Aluminium

*268. Shri Nihal Singh:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri Madhu Limaye:

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

(a) the estimated demand for aluminium during the next 4 years and the production targets fixed for it;

(b) whether any programme for the substitution of copper by aluminium to be used by electrical, cable and other industries is contemplated; and

(c) the break-up of the production envisaged in the public and private sectors?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) The demand for aluminium by 1970-71 has been estimated at 3,30,000 tonnes per annum (including about 30,000 tonnes for export). The production targets were also fixed at the same level but subsequently revised to 2,63,300 tonnes per annum. The demand and production targets are under further review taking in account possible reduction of demand in aluminium consuming and other industries.

(b) To a large extent in the cable industry copper has been substituted by aluminium. In addition, efforts are also being made to develop aluminium based alloys and substitution of aluminium in the place of other non-ferrous metals like copper, zinc and lead.

(c) It is expected that by 1970-71 production in the private and public sectors will be 2,38,300 and 25,000 tonnes respectively.

Prices of Yarn

*269. Shri M. S. Murlhi: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ad-hoc committee consisting of the representatives of textile mills, handloom and powerloom organisations is able to keep down the prices of yarn at reasonable level; and

(b) the percentage of price fall or price-rise on various counts of yarn after the appointment of this ad-hoc committee?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Ramakrishna Singh): (a) and (b). There is no control on the prices of cotton yarn. Following reports of rise in

price of yarn a meeting was held in Bombay on 7th September, 1966 with representatives of the textile mills, handloom and powerloom organisations, the yarn trade and State Governments. It was agreed at this meeting to set up an ad hoc committee of representatives of the textile industry, handloom and powerloom organisations, State Governments and Textile Commissioner in order to recommend the guide line for keeping the prices of yarn at reasonable level. The Committee by itself has not been able to keep down the prices of yarn as it had no control on the main factors leading to the rise in price of yarn namely (a) rise in price of cotton and (b) curtailment of machine activity due to shortage of cotton.

The average percentage rise/fall in the market prices of key counts of cotton yarn in the Coimbatore market since 7th September, 1966 upto May 19, 1967 is given below:—

Counts :

10s	+	0.0%
20s	+	14.2%
30s	+	13.4%
40s	+	12.9%
60s Indian carded	-	5.1%
60s Indian Combed	+	2.1%
80s Egyptian carded	+	15.1%
80s Egyptian combed	+	21.7%
100s Carded	+	5.5%
100s Combed	-	6.2%

Natural Soft Coke

*270. Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Geological Survey of India has indicated that over 200 Million tons of natural soft coke exists in India, which can be sold cheaper than manufactured soft coke;

(b) if so, whether any attempt has been made to explore it; and