

Iron ore lying unlifted by Foreign countries

*395. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of iron ore lying unlifted by foreign buyers; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take in this regard so as to avoid unnecessary loss in foreign exchange

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Shipments of iron ore are made as Per delivery schedules agreed to between the buyer and the seller. MMTC has so far signed contracts for shipment of 16.07 million tonnes of iron ore during 1984-85 and a quantity of 4.83 million tonnes of iron ore has been shipped during April-July, 1984. As On 31-7-1984, the total stocks of iron ore at port/loading stations for export held by MMTC were about 2.7 million tonnes. However, stocks at the loading stations in the Eastern Sector have been some what higher at the level of 0.9 million tonnes on account of exports from Paradip Port having gone down in recent years, mainly due to inadequate draft at the port to receive large size vessels resulting in considerable freight demerit and consequent unwillingness of foreign buyer to nominate vessels of smaller size which can be loaded from this Port. In spite of these problems of exports from the Paradip Port, MMTC has been successful in making arrangements to augment exports through Paradip to the level of 12 lakh tonnes in 1984-85 against 9.27 lakh tonnes in 1983-'84.

There is no loss of foreign exchange on account of stocks held by MMTC for export as on 31-7-1984 since most of the stocks are likely to be shipped against iron ore contracts already concluded by MMTC.

Efforts are being made by MMTC to locate new overseas export markets including, inter alia, China Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Turkey etc. A higher export target of 16 million tonnes has been fixed for export by MMTC for the year 1984-85 as against 14 million tonnes for the year 1983-84.

Indo-E.E.C. Joint Commission

*396. SHRI T. THANGABALU:

SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the subjects discussed at a recent meeting of the Indo-E.E.C. Joint Commission;

(b) whether any proposals were made by India to stimulate increase in exports of India's products to E.E.C. countries; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and whether E.E.C. has accepted the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (c) During the recent meeting of the Indo-EEC Joint Commission, matters relating essentially to commercial, economic, technological and financial cooperation between India and the EEC were discussed. The Indian side stressed the need for increased exports from India to the Community countries for which, it was emphasised, the Community should facilitate improved market access for products of specific interest to India. Pointing out that a large number of Indian products enjoy preferential tariff structure, the EEC side agreed to examine the possibility of further improvement in this regard.