

were kind enough to comply with the request after interrupting the work it was doing. A short delay of 6 days in the case of one ship and 5 days in the case of another occurred. Lightening of the ships and unloading along the quay-side has since progressed satisfactorily.

PROPOSAL TO SET UP IRON ORE BOARD

762. SHRI M. K. MOHTA :
SHRI BABUBHAI M.
CHINAI :
SHRIMATI SAVITA BE-
HEN :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up Iron Ore Board on the lines of Coffee Board and Tea Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the annual expenditure, if any, likely to be incurred as a result thereof, and the benefits likely to be derived therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) Government have decided to set up an Iron Ore Board. It will be a non-statutory and non-commercial organisation for the present. The principal functions of the Board will be :—

(a) to act as the Central Policy Planning and development agency on all aspects of development of iron ore deposits in the country ;

(b) to prepare perspective plans for the development and conservation of iron ore resources and to ensure effective implementation ;

(c) to ensure the optimum utilisation of the iron ore resources of the country inclusive in particular of pelletisation of fines, blue dust and of lower grades of iron ore ;

(d) to take such steps as are necessary to increase export of iron ore consistent with resources and internal needs ;

(e) to ensure balanced regional development of the iron ore deposits in the country having regard to export potential and the needs of the Indian Steel Industry ;

(f) to ensure the coordinated creation of infrastructure for iron ore mining and development and to liaise systematically with agencies like railways, ports, State Governments MMTC, Financing institutions, etc ;

(g) to act as the Centralised R & D agency for the iron ore sector as a whole inclusive of stimulating, sustaining and encouraging, scientific, technological and economic research ; and

(h) to discharge such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Central Government.

(c) The details of the structure and composition of the Board have not yet been finalised and the precise estimates of expenditure will be available only thereafter.

The benefits will be those derived from the functions of the Board indicated above.

SUPER POWERS' AGREEMENT AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

763. SHRI SITARAM KESRI :
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the fact that the Super powers have reached agreement on many issues during the U. S. President Mr. Nixon's visit to Peking and Moscow, India has taken initiative to organise the developing countries with a view to safeguarding their economic and defence interest; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?