

of intent has been issued in favour of the Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa for the manufacture of 100,000 tonnes of Sponge iron per annum by adopting the direct reduction process. This unit has not materialised as yet.

#### AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

368. SHRI G. GOPINATHAN NAIR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether is a fact that agricultural equipment manufacturing industries in Palghat District, Kerala, have been affected by the non-availability of iron and steel raw-materials ; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to relieve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) It is a fact that there is a shortage of steel at present. Agricultural equipment manufacturing industries in Kerala as in other parts of India, may be suffering to some extent due to this.

(b) Several steps have been taken to improve availability. Every effort is being made to step up production in the Steel Plants. For the agricultural implements manufacturing units in Kerala in particular, a special allocation of about 500 tonnes of export surplus rails has been made. Further, about 2 lakh tonnes of used rails, which had remained frozen under a court injunction, have now become available and a part of these rails is proposed to be earmarked for agricultural implements manufacturers. The units in Kerala will also get their due share out of this.

#### बांग्ला देश के लिये राष्ट्रमण्डल की सदस्यता

369. श्री राम सहाय : क्या विदेश मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राष्ट्रमण्डल में बांग्ला देश का प्रवेश कराने के लिए भारत द्वारा जो प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं उनका व्यौरा क्या है और इस सम्बन्ध में अब तक कितनी सफलता प्राप्त हुई है ; और

(ख) इस सम्बन्ध में अन्तिम निर्णय कब तक किये जाने की सम्भावना है ?

#### COMMONWEALTH MEMBERSHIP FOR BANGLA DESH

369. SHRI RAM SAHAT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State :

(a) the details of efforts which are being made by India to secure the entry of Bangla Desh into the Commonwealth and the success achieved in this regard so far ; and

(b) by when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?]

विदेश मन्त्रालय में उपमन्त्री (श्री सुरेन्द्रपाल सिंह) : बांग्ला देश के राष्ट्रमण्डल में प्रवेश से सम्बद्ध भारत सरकार का समर्थन भली भाँति मालूम है और इस समर्थन के बारे में राष्ट्रमण्डल सचिवालय एवं राष्ट्रमण्डल के अन्य सदस्य देशों को बता दिया गया है। बांग्ला देश की सदस्यता के प्रश्न के सम्बन्ध में राष्ट्रमण्डलीय देशों की प्रतिक्रिया सामान्यतः इसके हक में है।

(ख) जान पड़ता है कि राष्ट्रमण्डल सचिवालय सदस्य देशों से परामर्श करने में व्यस्त है और इन परामर्शों के परिणाम की प्रतीक्षा है।

[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) The Government of India's support for the admission of Bangla Desh to the Commonwealth is well-known and this support has been intimated both to the Commonwealth Secretariat and other member countries of the Commonwealth. The reaction of Commonwealth countries to the question of Bangla Desh membership has been generally favourable.

(b) The Commonwealth Secretariat is understood to be engaged in consultations with member countries and the outcome of these consultations is awaited.]

#### INDO-POLISH TRADE AGREEMENT

192. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :  
SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : SHRI  
SITARAM KESRI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Poland had entered into a trade agreement recently ; if so, the details thereof;

•[ ] English translation.

^Transferred from the 20th March, 1972.

(b) whether there is any scheme for the setting up of an Indo-Polish Economic Commission ; if so, its proposed structure and functions ; and

(c) by what time the Commission is likely to be set up and the benefits India is likely to derive therefrom ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) A "Trade Protocol" for the year 1972 was signed in New Delhi on the 16th December, 1971. The Protocol envisages a trade turnover of Rs. 92 crores for 1972 between the two countries. Major items of import are urea, sulphur, ships equipment, rolled steel products, dye intermediates, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, refractories, tractors and spares and capital goods and equipment. Main export items are iron ore, de-oiled cakes, processed mica, jute manufactures, cotton textiles and yarn, black pepper, tea, hides and skins, animal feed compounds, consumer durables and railway wagons.

(b) During the visit to Delhi last January of the Polish Deputy Premier Jan Mitrega letters were exchanged between him and the leader of the Indian delegation establishing an Indo-Polish Commission for Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

The Commission will consist of ministerial level representative of the two Governments. It may set up such committees at the official level as may be considered appropriate for a detailed discussion of items under consideration.

The main functions of the Commission will be to enlarge areas of co-operation in the fields of its competence. This will be done through joint studies of development programmes and elaboration of measures for collaboration in trade, industry, science and technology as well as through periodical reviews of on-going programmes of co-operation.

(c) The first meeting of the Commission is likely to be held early in 1973.

It is expected that through the functioning of this Commission the bilateral relations between India and Poland will be further strengthened, thus promoting our trade with Poland and benefiting our industries and scientific institutions in the sectors where Poland has achieved considerable competence.

12 NOON

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform Members that the following message dated March 21, 1972, has been received from the President :—

"I have received with great satisfaction the expression of thanks by the Members of the Rajya Sabha for the Address which I delivered to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 13th March, 1972."

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, there is no reference to my amendments. I am sure, if you had sent my amendments, he would have thanked me also—I am absolutely certain. This is very unfair. My amendments could have been sent and Mr. Giri would have thanked me undoubtedly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is very unfair that you should be talking now.

#### CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

##### CRASH IN COTTON PRICES IN VARIOUS MARKETS IN THE COUNTRY

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI (Maharashtra) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Foreign Trade to the steep crash in cotton prices in various markets in the country due to lack of credit, and the steps taken by the Government and the Cotton Corporation of India to remedy the situation.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Cotton production during the current year has been very encouraging. Due to the favourable weather conditions that obtained this year, the country has moved from the situation of shortage towards a very good crop. Against the estimated production of only 53 lakh bales of the last year, the present estimates of the current year are around 60 lakh bales.

Last year i. e. 1970-71 was an abnormal year for cotton, both in respect of production as well as price behaviour. The acute shortage of domestic cotton led to rise in prices