

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a), (b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

58. [Transferred to the 30th July, 1968]

TRADE RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA
AND SOVIET UNION

59. SARDAR RAM SINGH :
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government of India has been drawn to a press report in the Times of India of May 28, 1968 to the effect that India's trade relations with the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia have run into unexpected difficulties;

(b) whether rupee earnings of Yugoslavia have been progressively increasing in India because of trade imbalance between the two countries.

(c) what action, if any, is proposed by the Government of India to reduce the rupee earnings of Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union and the East European countries;

(d) whether any dialogue in this connection has been started between the Government of India and the countries of Eastern Europe; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes, Sir The Government is aware of the difficulties about India's trade with the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal to reduce the rupee earnings of these countries, as increased earnings promote diversified exports from India as the trade is on a balanced basis.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

OVERLAND ROUTE BETWEEN INDIA AND
SOVIET UNION

60. SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY :
SARDAR RAM SINGH :
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and the Soviet Union are exploring possibilities of laying an overland trade route between the two countries running through Pakistan and Afghanistan;

(b) if so, whether final arrangements have been made in this regard ; and

(c) the benefits which are likely to accrue to both the countries consequent on India adopting overland trade route?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI). (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

PRICE OF STEEL

61. SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Standing Committee of Iron and Steel Advisory Committee have recommended to increase the price of steel ; and

(b) if so, the reasons cited by them for increasing the price of the steel ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b) In the third meeting of the Standing Committee of Iron and Steel Advisory Council held on May, 24, 1968, there was a broad consensus of opinion that, keeping the market conditions in view and the increase in the cost of production during the last two to three years owing to increases in the prices of coal, the rate of railway freight, of excise duty, of sales tax, of wages and dearness allowance, and of royalty etc., there is a case for some increase in the prices of iron and steel.

OPERATION HARD ROCK

62 SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state the results of the "Operation Hard Rock" conducted by the Geological Survey of India in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : Airborne electromagnetic, magnetic and scintillometer survey was carried out over parts of Guntur, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Nellore and Khammam districts in Andhra Pradesh between July and November, 1967, covering a total area of about 30,500 sq kms which included the old mines of Mailaram, Karempudi, Agnigundala, Jangamarajupalle, Varikunta and Gani-Kalva. This has shown about 50 major zones of electromagnetic and magnetic anomalies, besides several hundred isolated ones. Reconnaissance ground survey of about 50—60 individual intercepts has been carried out till now.

Airborne survey has given geophysical anomalies in the vicinity of known mineralised zones and in parts where no minerals have been reported, so far : ground follow-up work, which includes electromagnetic and magnetic surveys, detailed geological mapping, geochemical prospecting photogeological interpretation and techniques, is being undertaken to test these anomalies, some of which are very significant as guides to large mineral deposits.

TRANSIT OF GOODS TO NEPAL THROUGH INDIA

63 SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item in the Hindustan Times on 3rd May 1968 based on the news item published in the Nepali paper, 'Mo her Land' to the effect that Nepal considers India as bad neighbour in the matter of transit of goods to and from Nepal ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Nepal charged India with not accepting what are called Internal principles regarding transit facilities for land locked Nepal as envisaged in Geneva contracts, and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) to (c) Some sections of the Press in Nepal

have made allegations of this nature. Our Embassy has issued a detailed statement explaining how the allegations are without any basis. A copy of the Press statement released by the Embassy is attached. (See Appendix LXV, Annexure No. 4).

DERAILMENT OF GOODS TRAIN BOUND FOR PILIBHIT

64 SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a goods train bound for Pilibhit derailed on the 29th April, 1968 on the Pilibhit—Shahjahanpur section of the North Eastern Railway,

(b) if so, what were the causes of the accident, and

(c) the extent of the loss suffered by the Railways due to the accident?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C M POONACHA) : (a) Yes

(b) *Prima facie* it appears that the accident occurred on account of whirlwind which blinded the driver who for the safety of the train applied the brakes resulting the derailment

(c) The cost of damage to railway property was estimated at approximately Rs 3,350.

SITTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PASSENGERS, AT ROURKELA RAILWAY STATION

65 SHRI N PATRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any arrangements have been made for providing sitting accommodation for the passengers waiting at the Rourkela Railway station on the South Eastern Railway,

(b) whether it is a fact that wooden cabins kept in the passage are blocking the entrance to the said Railway Station and

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to move the cabins immediately?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C M POONACHA) : (a) Yes,