

Steel Plants was of the order of Rs. 27·8 crores, Rs. 13·3 crores and Rs. 12·8 crores respectively. This includes stocks of the value of Rs. 7 to 8 crores at various ports awaiting shipments and of semis of the value of Rs. 11 crores, a part of which would be processed further into finished products during the current year.

#### MODERNISATION OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY

33. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme for modernisation of the textile industry has been formulated by Government;

(b) if so, what are the main features thereof; and

(c) what is the estimated cost of the programme?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### SALE OF RAILWAY WAGONS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

34. SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries from which India has received offers for purchase of railway wagons;

(b) the number of wagons for which contract has been signed by each country so far;

(c) what is the price of each wagon and the total amount of the contract so far signed; and

(d) whether the Government of U. S. S. R. had offered to enter into a long term contract for purchase of Railway wagons from India and if so, what are the reasons for the delay in concluding the contract?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Burma, Ceylon, Hungary, Kenya, Poland, South Korea, Uruguay, U. S. S. R. and East Africa.

|                       | Wagons |
|-----------------------|--------|
| (b) Kenya . . . . .   | 247    |
| Hungary . . . . .     | 500    |
| South Korea . . . . . | 1,050  |
| Ceylon . . . . .      | 40     |
| Burma . . . . .       | 14     |

(c) Export sales of wagons are made through ordinary trade channels. Price of wagons varies from order to order because of variations in specifications of wagons required by consumers.

(d) A protocol in this behalf has been entered into by the S. T. C. with U. S. S. R. The S. T. C. expects to make its commercial offer shortly.

#### SURVEY OF IRON ORE DEPOSITS IN KOZHIKODE DISTRICT, (KERALA)

35. SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey of the iron ore deposits in the Kozhikode District in Kerala has been made by Government;

(b) if so, what is the estimate of the probable quantity of iron ore deposits in the area; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to exploit the deposits?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Detailed investigation of the deposits around Kozhikode township as at East and West Hills, Nanminda-Naduvallur, Eliyetti Malai and Cherupa Hill have been carried out by the Geological Survey of India. The ore is mainly low grade containing 30 to 35 per cent iron but can be upgraded to 60 to 65 per cent iron. The total anticipated reserves of iron ores from the above 4 deposits are expected to be of the order of 325 million tonnes. There are also small reserves of 9 million tonnes of high grade oxidised ores on the top of the hills containing up to 60 per cent iron.

A programme of detailed investigation by drilling to assess the reserve and grade of the iron ore has been taken up at Cherupa and the investigation is in progress.

(c) The question of exploitation of the deposits is engaging the attention of the State Government.