

All these proposals are under examination of present.

FOREIGN COLLABORATION FOR EXPLORATION AND MINING OF ROCK PHOSPHATE

*193. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 114 in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th November, 1966 and state:

(a) whether Government have since finalised the agreement with Messrs. Sofremines of France for technical assistance for exploration and mining of rock phosphate deposits in U.P. and Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement reached?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. M. CHANNA REDDY): (a) No, Sir. However, a proposal for technical assistance from M/s. Sofremines in this project is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

EDIBLE OILS

♦194. SHRIMATI TARA RAM-CHANDRA SATHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual requirement of edible oils in the country;

(b) the total annual production of edible oils in the country; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange involved in the import of edible oils in the financial year 1966-67?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) The total annual requirement of edible oils in the country is estimated to be of the order of 2.4 million tonnes.

(b) The total estimated production of edible oils in the country during 1965-66 is 1.591 million tonnes.

(c) No separate foreign exchange allocation has been made for the import of edible oils for the financial year 1966-67. However, Mustard Oil

worth Rs. 1.86 lakhs and Soyabean Oil worth Rs. 378.78 lakhs have been imported during April 1966 to November 1966. The figures for the later period are not available.

PRODUCTION OF H.M.T. WATCHES

*195. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual production of H.M.T. watches;

(b) what is the annual demand of these watches; and

(c) what are the export figures of these watches during the last two years and to which countries they were exported?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) 2,40,000 watches.

(b) This is roughly estimated to be 1 million numbers a year.

(c) During 1965-66, 1680 watches were exported to U.K., U.S.A., and Canada and during 1966-67 (up to February 1967), 714 watches were exported to U.K., West Germany, Holland, Canada, U.S.A., Uganda, Kenya, Kuwait and New Zealand.

BLENDING OF SUPERIOR COAL WITH MEDIUM AND LOWER GRADES OF COKING COAL

♦196. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL MINES AND METALS be pleased to state the steps being taken by Government for enforcing blending of superior coal with medium and lower grades of coking coal and for saving coking coal from being put to wrong uses?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. M. CHANNA REDDY): The planning for production of coking coal has been proceeding on the basis that the steel plants will progressively use higher proper-