

**KHETRI COPPER MINES**

153. SHRI OM MEHTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to exploit Khetri Copper Mines in Rajasthan with French collaboration and that a team of French experts has arrived in India to finalise arrangements with the National Mineral Development Corporation;

(b) if so, when the work on this mine is going to be started; and

(c) the names of the other places which are being surveyed for copper here?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. A French team of experts visited India in May-June, 1965 and had discussions with the National Mineral Development Corporation.

(b) Work on the mine is already in progress.

(c) Exploration for copper is in progress in the following areas:—

State	Areas
Rajasthan	(1) Madha-Kudhan (2) Kolihan (3) Akwali (4) Bhagoni (5) Pratappgarh (6) Nalladeswar (7) Matasula (8) Saladiwara (9) Lohakhan
Bihar	(1) Roam-Sidheswar (2) Rakha mines block (3) Tama Pihar (4) Turamdih (5) Mahuldih
Andhra Pradesh	(1) Agnigundala (2) Peddagavalakonda (3) Zangamrasuppale (4) Mailaram
Gujarat	(1) Khandia

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNED BY EXPORT OF BANANAS**

154. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the export of bananas in 1963-64 and 1964-65; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to encourage the export of bananas to other foreign countries where they are in demand so as to earn a considerable amount of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) The foreign exchange earned by the export of bananas in 1963-64 and 1964-65 was Rs. 36 lakhs and Rs. 32 lakhs respectively.

(b) in order to encourage the export of bananas, Government have been taking various steps, such as, formation of Banana and Fruit Development Committee to look into the various problems connected with the export of bananas and other fruits and suggest suitable measures. A Banana Delegation was sent in 1963 to some of the West Asian and European countries to explore the market possibilities for Indian bananas in those countries. With a view to promote the export of bananas from the four Southern States, viz., Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Kerala, a Banana and Fruit Development Corporation has been set up. Transport facilities are also provided. An Elevator-conveyor has been installed at Bombay port to facilitate speedy loading of bananas into the steamer. 10% Tax Credit will be granted on exports of fresh fruits.

**RELEASE OF COPPER TO STATES**

155. SHRI YELL A REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure followed for release of copper quota to States and

individual consumers in the small scale industries;

(b) whether State Development Corporations are given any directives by Government with regard to the consumers whose permits are delayed; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA) : (a) Foreign exchange allocation for import of copper for the small scale sector is made half-yearly by the Ministry of Steel and Mines (Department of Mines and Metals), on receipt of which the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries makes Statewise allocations of the total quantity of copper expected to be available against the foreign exchange allocation. Allotments in favour of individual consumers are recommended by the State Directors of Industries to the Controller of Non-Ferrous Metals, against the quota allotted to each State. The State Directors also indicate the allottees to whom permits for direct acquisition of copper should be issued by the Non-Ferrous Metals Controller and the allottees to whom releases should be made through the State Small Industries Corporation or Development Corporation or Raw Material Depots. On the basis of these recommendations, permits are issued by the Non-Ferrous Metals Controller either to the individual consumer or the State nominee for acquisition of copper from the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd., through whom imports of copper for small scale industries are channelised. Where permits are issued to State Corporation etc., the Non-Ferrous Metals Controller indicates in the permits the individual units recommended by the State Government to whom the material should be supplied.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) When supplies against permits are delayed, the matter is taken up at once with the State Development Corporations and also with the Directors of industries of the States concerned, by the Controller of Non-Ferrous Metals. They are directed to see that early supply of copper is made to the parties according to the permits issued by the Non-Ferrous Metals Controller.

#### DISPARITY IN COPPER PRICE

156. SHRI YELLA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that discrimination is being practised while charging the price of copper to small units in the small scale industries; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and what action is being taken to remove this discrimination?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER in THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA): (a) and (b) Import of copper for small-scale industries is channelised through the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi. Its distribution and price are regulated according to the provisions of the Non-ferrous Metals Control Order, 1958. The price of copper supplied to the consumer is determined on the basis of landed cost plus a margin of 3% as provided in the Control Order. The Corporation does not charge more than the price as prescribed in the Control Order. In recent months, however, due to frequent and wide fluctuations and rise in the price of copper in the international market, the prices of different consignments have markedly varied. There has, therefore, been a corresponding difference in the price of copper supplied to consumers from different consignments. This appears to have