

State, have been included and these total about 268 KMs.

2. The list of new lines to be taken up in the Fourth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised in conjunction with the Planning Commission. Due consideration will be given, while doing this, to the proposals incorporated in the above Report sent by the State Government, along with similar other proposals.

PROMOTION OF IRON AND STEEL EXPORT

267. SHRI RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering measures to promote the exports of iron and steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the final export-earnings anticipated as a result of these export measures?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An export quota of 100,000 tons of bars, rods, structurals and rails, was fixed for each of the years 1963-64 and 1964-65.

It has been decided to set up a Steel Exporters' Association with the object of surveying markets, sending out study teams and delegations, undertaking publicity etc. for promoting the export of iron and steel. The Association is expected to come into being shortly.

(c) Exports during 1964-65 are estimated to be of the order of about Rs. 4 crores.

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NEW IMPORT LEVY BY BRITAIN

268. { SHRI RAM SINGH;
SHRI SANKAR PRATAP
SINGH DEV;
SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH;
SHRI KRISHAN DUTT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Government has recently imposed a new import levy on all imports;

(b) if so, how the levy is expected to affect Indian exports to U. K.; and

(c) whether Government of India have made any representation to the British Government in the matter and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) The United Kingdom Government imposed with effect from the 27th October, 1964, a temporary levy of 15 per cent on all imports, with the exception of foodstuffs, basic raw materials for industry, and unmanufactured tobacco.

(b) and (c) On the basis of a preliminary study, it was apprehended that about 28 per cent of India's exports might be affected by the levy and representations were made for relief especially in respect of hand-made products and other main sectors of trade affected. Subsequently, the U.K. Government took steps to remove certain anomalies in the levy and as a result, undressed leather including East India Kips has been exempted from the levy. Further developments are awaited.

VISIT OF DELEGATION OF E. GERMAN INDUSTRIAL SPECIALISTS

269. { SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR:
SHRIMATI SARLA
BHADAURIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 12-member East German delegation of

industrial specialists visited this country in October, 1964; and

(b) if so, what was the object and outcome of their visit?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) It is understood that a delegation of industrial specialists from E. Germany visited India in October, 1964.

(b) The Government of India have not received any report about the outcome of their visit.

RAIL CONCESSION FOR STUDENTS

270. SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have restored the rail concessions for students desiring to undertake educational and round tours;

(b) if so, when and for what reason the concession was withdrawn; and

(c) what is the total annual loss to the railways on this account?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH): (a) Yes.

(b) This concession, alongwith a large number of other concessions, was withdrawn with effect from 1st January, 1963 in view of the acute stage of the National Emergency at that time.

(c) No such statistics are maintained by the Railways and it is not possible to make an estimate. It may, however, be stated that the sum would not be considerable as the concession itself often makes possible such tours.

LOCATION OF ALUMINIUM PLANTS

271. SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision for the location of two major aluminium plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY):

(a) and (b) The question presumably relates to projects in the public sector. Proposals to establish two new aluminium smelters in the public sector—one in the Koyna region of Maharashtra State based on Koyna Hydel Power and another near the Korba Thermal Power Station in Madhya Pradesh—are under consideration.

SALE OF IMPORTED ROCK-SALT BY STATE TRADING CORPORATION

272. COL. B. H. ZAIDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the price paid by the State Trading Corporation for the rock-salt from West Pakistan; the total cost including duty and freight up to Delhi and the price at which the State Trading Corporation sells it to the co-operatives and traders in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): The price paid by S.T.C. for rock-salt imported from Pakistan is Rs. 28.90 per metric ton f.o.r. Wagha. The total cost of rock-salt includes duty, freight and other charges and as such the price at which the S.T.C. is selling this to co-operatives and wholesalers throughout India varies from time to time.

TRADE DELEGATION TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES

**273. { SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY;
SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY;**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the recommendations made by the Murugappa Chettiar delegation to African countries in the matter of improvement of trade and other prospects?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): The delegation led by Shri Murugappa Chettiar