

(a) the number of Ministers' houses, partially or wholly, demolished and re-built in 1962-63 and so far in 1963-64 and the amount spent on those works; and

(b) the amount spent on repairs to M.Ps* bungalows, flats and the Constitution House during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND REHABILITATION (SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS GIVEN PERMISSION/FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PLANNED PARENTHOOD.

*297. DR. JAWAHARLAL ROHATGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of Government officials and private individuals who were given permission and/or foreign exchange for attending the International Conference on Planned Parenthood early this year at Singapore?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA) : In all 18 persons participated in this conference, out of which 8 were concerned with Government Medical Colleges and Family Planning Centres. No foreign exchange was released to any one of the participants and they all had institutional hospitality.

EXPORT OF MANGANESE

*298. SHRI R. N. KAKATI: Will the Minister of INTERNATIONAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a fall in export of manganese during the last few months;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the export of manganese?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (SHRI MANTJIBHAI SHAH): (a) The exports in 1963-64 (April to June) were 1,91,000 tons valued at 1.7 crores compared to 2,21,000 tons valued at 2.37 crores in the same period last year.

(b) and (c) There has been steep fall in the international price level and many of our traditional buyers have developed captive, sources of supply. We are following a vigorous policy to push up export of manganese ore through barter deals under which it is proposed to export approximately ten lakhs tons of manganese ore in 1963-64. The exports of manganese ore in 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63 and 1963-64 (estimated as per sales contracts and delivery stipulations) are as under:—

Tons (Lakhs)		Value (Rs.)
(Crore)		
1960-61	11-67	14-01
1961-62	9-65	10-42
1962-63	7-51	7-88
1963-64	10-00	8-50

A statement is laid on the Table of the House giving the steps taken by Government to maintain the exports of manganese ore.

STATEMENT

Deposits.—India is one of the largest producers and exporters of manganese ore in the world. The Indian Bureau of Mines has estimated the country's reserves of manganese ore at over 180 million tons. The reserves in great manganese ore belt of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are the largest so far known. The output of manganese ore at present has been estimated at 1-28 million tons.

2. History of Exports—Present difficulties and Future Prospects.—The total world trade in Manganese ore

is about 4-5 million tons. At one time, India supplied about one-third of this quantity to the world markets. U.S.A., which is the largest producer of steel, was India's principal buyer. In recent years, however, India's share has declined sharply.

The decline in our exports in recent years is accounted for by several factors, the chief among them is, the emergence of new sources of supplies and lesser dependence on Manganese ore in steel production due to technological advances in steel making, with the result that the available supplies of Manganese ore are far in excess of the demand and the world prices have declined sharply.

3. Increasingly, overseas buyers are obtaining their requirements from their own captive sources. Out of 4- 5 million tons of world trade, approximately 1 million tons are being supplied by Brazil where the mines are being jointly worked by U.S. Steel companies and the Brazilian Government. The British, French and the United States Steel Industries have also promoted a joint venture undertaking in French Equatorial Africa. A million tons of supplies are expected to be drawn from this source also. USSR which is the largest producer of manganese ore in the world also supplies approximately 4 million tons to U.K., Germany, Italy and France. The free market for Manganese ore is, therefore, limited to a meagre 2 million tons as against the exportable surplus from India alone of one million tons.

4. In addition, there are other very important sources of supplies particularly South Africa, Congo, Ghana. Morocco which are low cost producers and also very advantageously situated to consuming countries and enjoy considerable advantage in freight over India. Our highest export was 1.7 million tons in 1957 although the average of exports over a period of time has been about 1 million tons. By special measures like the Link and Barter deals, it is likely that during

the year 1963-64 exports may be maintained at the level of one million tons.

5. The Indian prices are out of line with the International prices by about \$4 to \$5. India, being in the extremely competitive world market could, therefore, hope to cash on its earlier connections and secure sizeable share of the world trade only through the Barter and Link deals.

6. *Export Promotion Measures.*— (1) Export of manganese ore under barter and link arrangement is encouraged and a number of barter deal* have been negotiated.

(2) Exporters of manganese ore are now to be allowed to utilise 10% of their export earnings to import mining machinery to reduce cost of mining and increase efficiency.

(3) A Committee headed by Shri Butt, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines and Fuel has been set up to go into the various aspects of affecting the export of Manganese Ore and recommend measures for the rationalisation and modernization of the Manganese mining industry in its various sectors (such as labour, management of mines blending and beneficiation and transportation including facilities at ports) with a view to securing a firm position for the industry in the foreign markets.

(4) With a view to stepping up exports of Mineral ores like iron and Manganese ore etc. and for establishing close liaison between the Government of India, the STC and trade interests concerned, it has also been decided to set up a Committee called the "Mineral Ores Exports Advisory Committee."

INQUIRY INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE NATIONAL MACHINERY MANUFACTURING LIMITED

•299. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have conducted or propose