

(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.P.s* 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 (Lafchs) (Crore		Value Rs.)
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