

the active consideration of the Government for a number of years, and whether the reasons now given for its non-formation were not before the Government when they were actively considering the formation of the Board?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Sir, actually this proposal was according to the recommendation of a committee which was appointed in 1958—the committee had recommended the formation of a Board. In the meantime certain lines of action have been taken under which we consider now that the same objectives could be achieved without having a multiplicity of authorities.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Ministry did not favour the formation of the Board and therefore the Board is not being formed?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir, in the sense that we are trying it on for a couple of years to see that the objective is settled without adding another authority, that is, for the time being, we are trying it on, the objectives being labour welfare and development.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether the idea is to give up this question of the formation of the Central Salt Board altogether, or it is being postponed for the time being?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir, I have said that it is being postponed for the time being.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: May I know, Sir, whether regional Boards are functioning at present, and properly?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: There are the regional Boards and they are functioning properly, because the advisers are

meeting very often and they are giving useful advice.

†EXPORT OF IRON ORE

*298. **SHRI SHERKHAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of iron ore of Bellary Hospet region exported through Madras, Cuddalore, Vizagapatnam, Karwar, Belikere, Tadri, Honnavar, Mangalore and Bombay Ports during the years 1960-61, 1961-62 and 1962-63;

(b) what is the rate paid on FOBT basis to the shippers at each of these ports; and

(c) what are the difficulties in exporting more quantity of ore through West Coast Ports which are so near to the mines?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) Statistics for export of iron ore sector-wise are not maintained but a statement showing the movements of Bellary-Hospet ore by rail to the various ports is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) It is not in the public interest to furnish this information.

(c) Exports of iron ore through the ports on the West Coast are taking place to the extent of the movement and port capacity available. The exports are likely to be stepped up substantially after the development works on the Hospet-Hubli rail line are completed this year providing for an increase in the movement capacity from half a million to one million tons.

†Transferred from the 7th March, 1963.

STATEMENT

Movement of Bellary Hospet Iron Ore by Rail.

Year : July-June.

Port	1960-61	1961-62	Total expected movement for full year 1962-63
Madras	2,85,664	5,25,242	7,23,183
Bombay	4,21,136	4,45,094	5,28,399
Karwar/Belikeri	2,45,071	2,70,386	3,71,631
Visakhapatnam	72,427	92,204	1,45,831
Cuddalore	2,56,235	1,85,839	2,44,709
Masulipatam	69,202	10,312	..
Kakinada	66,158	92,306	88,978
Tadri
Honnavar
Mangalore
	14,15,893	16,21,383	21,02,728

श्री शेरला : आपके स्टेटमेंट में तादरी, हुनावा और मंगलौर की जो फीगर्स खाली बताई गई हैं, क्या उसकी वजह आप कोई बता सकते ?

श्री मनुभाईशाह : मैंने तो बताया है कि १४ लाख टन से २१ लाख टन हो गया ।

SHRI PATIL PUTTAPPA: May I know, Sir, which is the nearest port for the export of this ore?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Madras and Mangalore—more Madras.

SHRI PATIL PUTTAPPA: May I know, Sir,—what is the distance to Karwar and to Madras?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: I do not know the exact distance just now; I do not have this information with me just now but I think it is about 485 miles from Hospet to Madras.

SHRI PATIL PUTTAPPA: May I know what each ton would cost at Karwar and at Madras?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Karwar will cost much less, but the facilities of turnout of the ships at the Madras port are much bigger—as the hon. Member is already aware—than at the port of Karwar.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: With regard to information sought about certain aspects of export, the hon. Minister said it would not be in the public interest to give such information . . .

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It is regarding the price per ton . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: that it will not be in the public interest commercially to give it . . .

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: We do not want to reveal it to the whole world and we do not want to announce what are our costs and what are our recoveries.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hon. Minister need not give the costings, if he likes not to, but why should there be hesitation in giving the information with regard to the prices they are charging?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It is because, Sir, price also is a matter of secrecy in trade; different buyers and different considerations are all there and it is not worth while or necessary to disclose them.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Therefore I take it that in this matter of settling prices it depends upon the negotiations that go between the various parties and that prices may change from party to party also.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It depends; if a big order of 10 million tons is available, then naturally the seller would tend to have a different price than in the case of a small spot order of 20,000 tons. I hope the hon. Member agrees with that.

FOOD POISONING IN THE COUNTRY

*323. SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of food poisoning have been on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, the reason thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (DR. D. S. RAJU): (a) to (c) There is no statistical information available to show that Food Poisoning cases have been on the increase in the country. Government propose to take suitable legislative and other measures to prevent the occurrence of food poisoning.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: Are the cases, which have come to the notice of the Government, from hotels and restaurants, or from other private places also say, from private boarding houses also?

DR. D. S. RAJU: Not so much from private places or from private boarding houses, but we had some cases reported from Bengal and Bombay and Assam, but they are mostly cases of food contaminated by insecticides. Hon. Members are perhaps aware that last year about 450 of these cases of food poisoning by contamination with insecticides have occurred in Malda and Dinajpur districts of Bengal and in Darrang district of Assam also, and also a few cases in Bombay and Maharashtra. They are being investigated; they have been investigated actually . . .

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: Are these cases of poisoning due to actual adulteration by the hotel managements, or are they due to poisoning materials introduced from outside?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Sir, occasionally cases of food poisoning have taken place due to bad food in the hotels, but large numbers of cases in recent years have been due to contamination of foodstuffs with insecticides, presumably during their transport in ships or boats, when both insecticides and food were being transported in the same carrier.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, what steps, if any, have been taken by the Central Government to advise the States and other