

States of America under which the floor prices of scraps of the United States of America are sought to be cut; and

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to maintain or improve the level of exports of scraps?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : (a) Government is not aware of any set back in the Indian export due to the trade arrangement between Japan and the "United States of America.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, what is the total quantity of scrap available in the country at present and what portion of it is exported and how much foreign *xchange we get from those exports?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Sir, there is a scrap estimates committee which enquires into the total available scraps, but it is rather difficult to give any firm figure. I can only quote the export figure for 1959 and it is 2,90,125 tons. Government are constantly making endeavours to estimate the scraps that are available in the country and they have formulated a policy according to which scraps are exported or not exported.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What are the ways and means by which the Government is intending to utilise to the fullest extent all the available scraps in the country?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Sir, Government have divided the scraps available in the country according to quality and certain qualities are not exported according to our policy. Certain qualities are exported by blending it with lower quality scraps. One of our policies is to allow the export only of melting scraps. For the export of some scrap on barter basis, we get some steel in exchange for the exported scrap.

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SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: That was noi, my question, Sir. What are the ways and means Government ar» now adopting for the fullest utilisation of the scraps in the country by way of melting for steel or for other purposes?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Inside the country, Sir, the main users of scrap are the electric furnaces for making steel. Scrap is also used in the integrated steel plants. At the time of steel-making a certain percentage of scrap has to be added besides the pig iron from the blast furnaces. These are the main uses to which the scrap is put.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it the policy of Government to export or to utilise the scrap fully?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The policy obviously is to use within the country the maximum quantity we can use, and what we cannot use within the country is exported.

DELEGATIONS SENT ABROAD

*192. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: WiU the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government and Government sponsored delegations which were sent abroad during the year 1959-60;

(b) what was the purpose for which each of the delegations was sent; and

(c) what was the expenditure incurred on each of the delegations and how much of it consisted of foreign exchange?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA) : Requisite information is being collected from the various Ministries|Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House when ready.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: In view of the shortage of foreign exchange, will the Minister consider the advisability of utilising the Indian

embassies as well as the Indian trade representatives of the Government of India abroad to negotiate with the foreign countries on behalf of India in respect of the goods that we may require from there?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: All possible efforts are made to save as much foreign exchange as possible.

AGREEMENTS FOR IMPORT OF RUSSIAN OIL

J SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: \ SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a separate agreement for import of oil from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Government account is proposed to be entered into shortly;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposed agreement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that an oil import agreement has been entered into between India and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on non-Governmental level; and

(d) if so, how far these two sets of agreements are complementary or otherwise to each other?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : (a) to (d). The Trade Plan 1960 with U.S.S.R. Government provides, *inter alia*, for import of petroleum products to this country and an offer has since been received from the Government of the U.S.S.R.; the offer is now being negotiated by the wholly Government-owned Company (Indian Oil Company Ltd.) on behalf of the Government of India; details will emerge only on the successful conclusions of these negotiations and it will not be in the public interest to give further details at this stage while negotiations are actually in progress.

fThe question was actually asked I on the floor of the House by Shri J Maheswar Naik.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Is it a fact that some time back it was reported in the papers and it was stated in the other House also that some foreign firm also entered into certain agreement with the U.S.S.R.?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: No foreign firm but a private Indian distributing company entered into some sort of agreement with a U.S.S.R. firm for the import of petroleum products.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the Government have been approached in respect of necessary facilities to be given to this private firm so far as import facilities are concerned?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: No. So far as I am aware, Government have not been approached for this purpose.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the attitude of the Government in respect of the agreement entered into between the private firm and the U.S.S.R.?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The Government have formulated their policy so far as the import of petroleum products is concerned from some other countries and they want an over-all agreement first to be reached between the Government company and the U.S.S.R. firm. After that the Government will consider other aspects or the programme of distribution through existing means.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: The hon. Minister has not answered the question as to whether the agreement between the U.S.S.R. and the private firm has come into operation and if so, what the attitude of the Government is thereto. If I remember aright, he said in the other House that the agreement was on account of a misunderstanding between our Government and the U.S.S.R. Government. We want to know precisely what the position is with regard to this agreement between a private firm in India and the Government of the U.S.S.R.