

EXPORT OF IRON ORES

*565. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister for TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of exported iron ores that consist of high grades of 60 per cent. Fe contents and above and of low grades of 60 per cent. Fe contents and below;

(b) what are the qualities of ores that the Indian factories generally consume; and

(c) whether Government have in view any scheme for effective utilisation of the low grade ores not conforming to the exportable standard?

THE MINISTER FOR TRADE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Exports of iron ore have been of the order of 1.2 million tons per annum and consist mostly of ore of 60 per cent. Fe contents and above. Exports of ore containing less than 60 per cent. Fe is negligible.

(b) Indian factories generally consume iron ore—60 per cent. and above Fe contents.

(c) Since there are vast resources of high grade iron ore in the country, the need for utilising low grade ores has not been urgently felt. The Government have nevertheless advised mine owners to instal machinery for making use of the rejected ore lying in dumps.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the minimum iron content for the ore to be profitably utilised?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I find that our factories are utilising iron ore of Fe content of 50 to 60 per cent., but I think the larger amount is above 55 per cent.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Is Government aware that a large number of iron smelters in the countryside are still prepared to smelt iron ore of low grade and, if so, may I know whether Government is prepared to encourage these smelters to utilise this low grade iron ore?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I think it is a good suggestion, and I will pass it on to my colleague concerned.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Was there any proposal from Japan to install some factory in order to smelt low grade iron ore in some part of Orissa?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to inform myself better before I answer that question.

*566. [The questioner (Shri M. Valiulla) was absent. For answer vide cols. 3892-93 infra.]

INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL FROM NETHERLANDS

*567. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any negotiations for the investment of private capital from Netherlands in Indian enterprises have so far been finalised;

(b) if so, in what particular industries this capital is proposed to be invested and what will be the extent of the investment; and

(c) the terms on which the inflow of capital from Netherlands has been permitted?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI M. M. SHAH): (a) Government of India are not aware of any negotiations for investment of private capital from Netherlands in Indian enterprises.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether any such negotiations are going on with private parties, the details of such negotiations or agreements will ultimately be conveyed to the Government of India?

SHRI M. M. SHAH: As I have already indicated, so far no negotiations have come to our notice. Whatever discussions are going on and of which Government is aware, are for technical collaboration and the giving of technical know-how. Whenever such things are finalised, they come to the Government of India and are approved by us.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if any capital goods are being supplied to India by Netherlands under any of these schemes?

SHRI M. M. SHAH: In a general way capital goods are coming in from several foreign countries including Netherlands.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know whether there are any concerns of Netherlands in India?

SHRI M. M. SHAH: I know there are a few. One is a Norwegian and Dutch Company working in Travancore-Cochin in collaboration with the State Government in one case and with a private company in another case. Also TEXMACO are considering a proposal for technical collaboration with a Dutch firm for making sugar machinery. If the hon. Member mentioned is one of them, fine case and if he puts a question, I will be glad to answer.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Is there one Dutch company Naardon producing essential oils in India?

SHRI M. M. SHAH: There are many such foreign companies and what the hon. Member mentioned is one of them.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Is there any proposal from the Dutch Government to help India's shipbuilding industry and also in reclamation of low-lying waste lands?

SHRI M. M. SHAH: Actually, this question does not arise out of this question, but about reclamation, I can say from personal knowledge that negotiations are in an advanced stage and we are taking advantage of the high technical skill of Netherlands in land reclamation.

SPUN SILK MILLS

*568. SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up spun silk mills for utilising silk waste; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and the names of the places where the mills are to be set up?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Governments of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and Jammu and Kashmir contemplate setting up spun silk mills each of 3,000 spindles in their respective States during the Second Five Year Plan.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know how many mills we have at present which utilise silk waste?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Only one and that is at Chennapatnam in Mysore State.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: What is the quantity of waste silk accruing in the country and what quantity will be utilised by this mill?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: This mill's capacity is about 8 lakh pounds of waste silk. And the total annual availability of waste silk in the country is of the order of 18 lakh pounds, roughly.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Is it true that waste silk is now exported from India and if so, what is the annual export of this article?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Yes, Sir. Waste silk is being exported from India and the quantity varies from year to year. In 1952, the quantity exported was 4 lakh pounds, in 1953 it was 6.7 lakh pounds, 1954 3 lakh pounds, 1955 it was 1.5 lakh pounds and during this year we have so far given allocation for the export of 3.25 lakh pounds.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, if steps have been taken to establish spun silk mills in this country in States like Kashmir and Assam, and if so, from which country do they propose to get the plants for these mills?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: It is too early to say from which country the plant will be imported. Our endeavour will be to fabricate as much machinery as possible in our own country; and if and when a final decision is taken to establish spun silk units in various States, then it will be decided wherefrom we have to get the machinery.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know whether the spun silk factory at Chennapatnam referred to by the hon. Minister has at any time utilised more than 4 lakh pounds of waste silk?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I cannot say; the hon. Member who was Minister for Industries in Mysore some years back perhaps knows more about it than myself. During this year it is expected that 6 lakh pounds will be used by this spun silk mill. If my memory serves me right, at one time they were using from 5 to 6 lakh pounds, I do not remember which year it was.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know Sir, whether the experience of the hon. Minister with regard to this silk factory has been very encouraging?