

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) Yes, when compared to the quantities exported in 1951-1952, in which years there was a sudden increase in exports.

(b) To encourage coal exports Government have already abolished the commercial charge on exports of coal from 11th May 1953 the procedure for securing export orders has been simplified and the gradewise restriction on exports has been relaxed. Government have also recently set up a Committee to advise on the measures to be adopted for increasing coal exports.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know, Sir, what steps are being taken to find markets for our coal in Pakistan?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Regarding Pakistan, there is a trade agreement between Pakistan and ourselves under which a stipulated quantity will be taken by Pakistan every year and in accordance with that agreement exports to that country are being regulated.

STATE HANDLOOM BOARDS

*22. SHRI M. VALIULLA (ON BEHALF OF SHRI KISHORI RAM) : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the constitution of State Handloom Boards in all the States; and

(b) whether there is any handloom board already constituted in any of the States; and, if so, which are those States?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) Yes. The Central Government had advised the State Governments in May 1953, to constitute State Handloom Boards or Committees.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 13.]

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is any Central aid given to the States? If so, on what basis?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It is a long question; it is another question altogether.

EXPORT DUTY ON MANGANESE

*29. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (ON BEHALF OF SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHA RAO): Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether any representations have been received from the manganese mine-owners of Madhya Pradesh regarding the reduction of export duty on manganese?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): Yes, Sir.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: What action has been taken on the representation?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The duty has since been abolished.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NATIONALISATION OF COLLIERIES OWNED BY PRIVATE AGENCIES

*23. SHRI V. M. SURENDRA RAM: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to nationalise the collieries owned by private agencies?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : No, not at present..