

Purchase of Ammunition from Europe

- *84. {
 Shri U. C. Patnaik;
 Shri Bagnath Singh;
 Shri Parulekar;
 Shri E. C. Vyas;
 Shri Bameshwar Tantia;
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh;
 Shri Naldurgker;
 Shri Goray;
 Shri A. K. Gopalan;
 Shri Kunhan;
 Shri Narayanankutty Menon;
 Shri Naushir Bharucha;

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 1034 on the 8th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the inquiries instituted into the purchase of ammunition from an European firm in 1952 have been completed;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the same;

(d) the action taken thereon; and

(e) the cost of the ammunition which was found unserviceable?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) to (c) Enquiries have been held more than once. They have since been completed. The relevant reports are under detailed examination by Government. The quantity of unserviceable ammunition, if any, and its cost can be assessed only after the examination is completed.

Prices of Melting Scrap Iron

*85. Shri P. R. Patel: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Saxena Committee appointed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry had recommended to Government to decontrol the melting scrap iron prices;

(b) if so, whether the recommendation has been accepted;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to revise the current prices of melting scrap iron and remove the difference between the two grades of melting scraps?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) The decision of the Government is that this recommendation will be considered on merits at the appropriate time *vide* Government's Resolution No. PLGB-55(33)/57 dated the 13th November, 1957.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Fire in the North Block.

- *86. {
 Shri Vajpayee;
 Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri;

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fire broke out in the North Block of the Central Secretariat, New Delhi, on the 23rd October, 1958;

(b) the damage caused thereby;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the causes of this fire; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and action taken thereon?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some recorded files, two wooden wall-racks, a few items of stationery and some spare copies of old communications were burnt.

(c) and (d). The matter is still under investigation.