

Wagons for Coal Movement

*546. **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the full quota of wagons placed at the disposal of the Coal Controller in the months of September and October, 1960 could not be utilised; and

(b) if so, what is the short-fall?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). A statement showing the average daily allotment of wagons against offerings for the transport of coal during September and October, 1960 is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 30.] Though the allotment was somewhat less than the offerings, the wagons that were actually made available for loading were fully utilised.

Petroleum Products

*547. **Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil companies have adopted a policy of under-cutting the prices of petroleum products imported by Government from the U.S.S.R.;

(b) if so, the extent of under-cutting;

(c) which of these companies are meeting the deficit caused by such under-cutting from the duty protection enjoyed by them and to what extent;

(d) the total annual amount of duty protection enjoyed by each of these companies;

(e) whether these companies have been approached for foregoing their duty protection; and

(f) if so, the reply received in each case?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) It is not possible to say if the Oil Companies have adopted any policy as such of

under-cutting the prices of petroleum products imported from the U.S.S.R. There have, however, been instances in which some of the companies had offered to sell at rates below the rates for oil imported from U.S.S.R.

(b) Quotations had varied from one customer to another. Although it cannot be said precisely what rates had been quoted to a particular customer, the rates quoted in some of the cases were known to be below the landed cost of oil imported from U.S.S.R.

(c) Burmah Shell had already surrendered the duty concession enjoyed by it with effect from 1st July, 1959. S.V.R.C. have also offered to surrender the duty protection enjoyed by them, with effect from 11th November, 1960. C.O.R.I.L. have not so far surrendered the duty protection. It is not possible to say as to what extent the companies have made up the deficit of under-cutting from the saving to them on account of duty protection.

(d) Duty protection in terms of the Refinery Agreement per annum are:—

S.V.R.C.	..	Rs. 1,43,60,500
C.O.R.I.L.	..	Rs. 63,47,598

(e) Yes.

(f) 'As a result of this approach, S.V.R.C. have already surrendered the duty protection with effect from 15th November, 1960. C.O.R.I.L. have stated that they are not in a position to surrender the duty protection immediately but would constantly keep this in mind and periodically review the position.

Nagarjunasagar Project

*548. { **Kumari M. Vedakumari:**
Shri Osman Ali Khan:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction work at Nagarjunasagar project is delayed due to shortage of steel; and

(b) what are the steps taken so far to see that adequate quantity of steel is supplied in time?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): The question will be answered by the Minister for Irrigation and Power at a later date.

Report of Hindu Religious Endowment Commission

*549. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindu Religious Endowment Commission under C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer has submitted its report;

(b) if not, when is the report expected; and

(c) what States were visited by the Commission?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Commission is expected to submit its report to Government in the second half of 1961.

(c) The Commission has visited the States of Kerala and Mysore and is now on tour in the State of Gujarat.

Raw Materials Committee

*550. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Steel Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the view of the Raw Material Committee to give a trial for transport of raw materials for steel plants by ropeways and pipelines; and

(b) whether the estimates of cost has been worked out?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). No, Sir. It was merely a suggestion for consideration in future plans. The raw materials for the steel industry in the Third Five Year Plan will be carried by the railways.

Manufacture of Rifles and Shotguns for Civilians

*551. **Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the Government arms factories have any proposals to manufacture shotguns and sporting rifles for Civilians on mass scale and what chances are there of prices of Indian cartridges coming down?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): Ordnance Factories have already established manufacture of 12 Bore DBBL Shot Guns and '315" Rifles on a mass scale.

Prices of cartridges are being progressively reduced. The prices of '315" cartridges have been reduced with effect from 1st November, 1960 to Rs. 45 per 100 from Rs. 75. The cost of 12 bore is also being reduced.

Raw Material Supply to Steel Mills

*552. **Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has set up any Committee to look after the raw material supply of all Steel Mills in the country belonging to private and public sectors; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference of this Committee?

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

(b) A copy of the Resolution setting up the Committee is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 31.]

Audit of Hindustan Steel Accounts

*553. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether only one firm of auditors has been appointed to audit the accounts of Messrs. Hindustan Steel Ltd. at (1) Bhilai (2) Durgapur (3) Rourkela and (4) Bokaro;