

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) In view of the difficulties in the transport of coal which prevailed in 1961 and 1962, some consumers in Southern and Western India were allowed to switch over to furnace oil in place of coal and certain incentives were granted for such switch-over.

(b) So far only two cement factories have switched over completely to furnace oil. Two other cement factories had programmed to switch over to furnace oil with effect from 1-4-1964. When this change over is also complete, a total of nearly 0.6 million tonnes of coal would have been replaced by furnace oil. A couple of factories, besides these, are still in the process of switching over.

Textile Mills

*894. { Shri M. L. Jadhav:
Shri Jedhe:
Shri Lonikar:

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is huge wastage in the installed capacity of textile mills;

(b) whether the wastage of installed capacity results in short supply of cloth; and

(c) the efforts being made to correct the position?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

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

S. T. C. Trade Delegation Abroad

*901. **Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of International Trade be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trade delegation of the State Trading Corporation headed by its Chairman is visiting Russia, East Germany and Czechoslovakia;

(b) if so, the specific purpose of the visit; and

(c) to what extent, if any, the expenditure incurred on the delegation is likely to reflect on the various items of trade the team is expected to negotiate?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) A Trade Delegation of the State Trading Corporation, headed by its Chairman, visited G.D.R., Czechoslovakia and the U.S.S.R. during March, 1964.

(b) The main reasons for the visits to the three countries were:—

(i) G.D.R.—to negotiate prices and programme of supply of fertilizers as also to co-ordinate the activities of the representatives of STC and private firms who participated in the Leipzig Fair.

(ii) Czechoslovakia: to promote trade in chemicals.

(iii) USSR: to negotiate supply of fertilizers and to settle contracts in other items of exports and imports.

In addition, the opportunity was utilised by the delegation to discuss various trade matters for speedy implementation of increased exports of diversified items.

(c) The total expenditure incurred on the delegation was Rs. 26,300 approximately. The value of the contracts negotiated by the delegation is likely to be about Rs. 8.50 crores.

Kiriburu Iron Ore Project

*902. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kiriburu iron ore project on which Rs. 43 crores has been invested is idle because of the delay in the provision of facilities at Visakhapatnam port;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Japanese buyers are not inclined to