

11.10 hrs.

Iron ore for Malaysia

*734. SHRI A. C. DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Malaysia has expressed a desire to buy iron ore from India;

(b) if so, the total quantities of iron ore Malaysia wants to import from the country annually;

(c) whether any contract has been signed by M.M.T.C. with Malaysia for channelising export; and

(d) if so, when the export is going to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). A Draft Supply Contract has been signed by M.M.T.C. for supply of 2.5 lakh tonnes of iron ore per annum for three years commencing from 1984-85 to Sabah Iron & Steel Company (Eastern Malaysia).

SHRI A. C. DAS: Has any bilateral trade been started between Malaysia and India? If so, since when it has started? Which are the main items exported and imported from Malaysia at present?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We have bilateral trade with Malaysia since long. We have been exporting to Malaysia Machinery and equipments, iron ore etc. Joint ventures have also been established with Malaysia. We are importing from Malaysia things like Palm oil, rubber, etc.

SHRI A. C. DAS: Does Malaysia want to import iron ore from India for iron plants? Do some other countries also import iron ore from India for the same purpose? What will be the total amount of foreign exchange earned annually by exporting iron ore to Malaysia and other countries?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Malaysia is importing iron ore from India. We have already sent 50,000 tonnes of iron ore to Malaysia and a contract is likely to be entered into between the two countries for supply of 2.5 lakh tonnes of iron ore to Malaysia. Other countries also import iron ore from India.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I would like to know about the bilateral agreement between Malaysia and India regarding supply of iron ore from India. I would like to know which are the States and projects including Kudremukh Project? Is M.M.T.C. involved or covered also?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The supply of iron ore will be made by MMTC. The delegation had gone to Malaysia and they had discussed this matter with the authorities in Malaysia. They have signed a draft agreement. It is not a final agreement or contract but a draft agreement has been signed between Malaysia and India. The factory has to be started in the year 1984-85 in Malaysia and for that factory they want to take iron ore from India. Probably they require 5 lakh tonnes of iron ore. They are wanting to take iron ore not from one country but from another country also i.e. two countries. They do not want to take from one country only. Half of the iron ore is likely to go from India to Malaysia. As to the time schedule and price all those things will be decided at that moment. They would evolve a formula. That formula would apply and they would take iron ore from this country.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: The hon. Minister has not given the figures as to what is the total amount of export that India has made to Malaysia and what is the total amount of import that India is going. The amount of import that we are doing is more than Rs. 260 crores according to the *Economic Times* figures. May I know that is the total export quantity that we are making to Malaysia and, at the same time, may I know whether the pollet variety of iron ore from the Kudremukh project is also included in this contract?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: He has not answered that point.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The export and import figures are like this:

	Export	Import
	Rs. in millions	Rs. in millions
1976-77 . . .	304.5	339.3
1977-78 . . .	336.3	2210.3
1978-79 . . .	452.4	2411.9
1979-80 . . .	537.9	2073.3
1980-81 . . .	549.5	2534.8

For the period upto September, 1981 the export was to the tune of Rs. 254.1 millions and the import was to the tune of Rs. 1104.1 millions. The iron ore pellets from the Kudremukh project are also tried to be exported to Malaysia.

Setting up of Electronic Unit in West Bengal

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*735. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has requested the Central Government to set up an Electronics unit in West Bengal;

(b) if so, when Government received the proposal from the State Government;

(c) what are the salient points raised by the West Bengal Government in the said proposal;

(d) whether Government have taken any decision;

(e) if not, how long it will take to take a decision in this regard; and

(f) what are the reasons for the inordinate delay?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VANKATARAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, during 1978-1981.

(c) The proposals relate to establishment of an electronics complex for

avionics, and location of units of BEL and HAL in West Bengal.

(d) to (f) Requests have been received from a number of State Governments. All relevant factors would be taken into consideration before taking a final decision. No decision has been taken so far.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Sir, due to the partition of India lots of people were uprooted in the erstwhile East Pakistan now Bangladesh. They had come to West Bengal and settled there. For this reason West Bengal has become a problem State. Further, a recent study of the Association of Indian Engineering Industries indicates that the whole of eastern region accounts barely for 9 per cent of the licences issued while it is 45 per cent in west, 27 per cent in south and 27 per cent in north. The State of West Bengal has become very keen in establishing an electronics industry in the State. For this purpose, the Government has allotted 100 acres of land in West Bengal. Furthermore, a good deal of foreign currency is being paid for the import of electronics goods. In view of these facts, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government would give a green signal for setting up the electronics complex in West Bengal.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The problem of West Bengal refugees will be one of the factors that will be taken into consideration in deciding the location. As many as 11 States have requested for the location of this Unit and each one has pleaded some special consideration in respect of each one of them. Government will take a decision on the merits of the case.

So far as the second point about the percentage of licences is concerned, I think that the question should be put to the Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Steel and Mines who is in-charge of licensing.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: My second supplementary is which are the States and places where the electronic complexes are at present working and why