

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The shortfall in production is due to disturbed labour conditions in the works of some private wagon builders, financial difficulties faced by some of the firms, and shortage of matched steel due to inadequate indigenous availability.

OIL EXPLORATION IN RANN OF KUTCH

486. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA :
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently taken in hand the exploration of oil in the Rann of Kutch area (Gujarat) ; and

(b) if so, how far success has been achieved in the venture ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) Exploration on drilling has been started recently in Banni area, which adjoins the Rann of Kutch. This had been preceded by surveys in Banni area, carried out over several field seasons in the past.

(b) As the drilling started only about six weeks back, it is too early to say anything about success of exploration work. Whether or not accumulations of oil or gas exist at this location, would be known only after the well has been drilled down to the projected depth and tested.

ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAYS SOUGHT FOR BY ASIAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES

487. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently some Asian and African countries have

sought the assistance of India for the development of their railways ;

(b) if so, the names of such countries ; and

(c) whether any agreement in this behalf has recently been finalised with any country and if so, the names thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes.

(b) Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Philippines and Bangla Desh.

(c) Negotiations are being held with the Iraqi Government for carrying out Final Location Survey and Economic Study for a new railway line from Baghdad to Hasibah. Necessary assistance for the restoration of rail communications in Bangla Desh is also being given at the request of that country.

WEAVERS' SERVICE CENTRE IN KERALA

488. SHRI S. KUMARAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 216 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 1972 and state whether Government have since taken any decision on the proposal of Kerala Government for the establishment of a Weavers' Service Centre ; if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : Yes, Sir. It has since been decided to set up new Weavers' Service Centres and sub-centres in certain States. One of the new centres will be in Kerala.

DIFFICULTIES FACED BY PASSENGERS DETRAINING AT NEW DELHI STATION

489. SHRI SUHRID MULLICK CHOUHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers travelling in third class by 81 UP and 103 UP AC Express from Howrah have to face great difficulties in detraining at New Delhi Station due to the heavy rush for entraining by the Amritsar bound passengers ; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter to enable smooth detraining of the passengers at the New Delhi Station ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS <SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI> : (a) and (b) Normally, no such difficulty is experienced. Sometimes, however, when these trains are running late confusion does occur as the passengers are in a hurry to detrain and entrain. With a view to assisting the passengers, the following measures have been taken : —

(i) Announcements are made over the Public Address System at New Delhi that incoming passengers should be allowed to detrain before the outgoing passengers entrain.

(ii) Ticket Collectors on duty have instructions to afford all possible assistance to the passengers in this regard.

TRAVEL BY UNAUTHORISED PERSONS IN RESERVED COMPARTMENTS OF 103 UP AC EXPRESS

490. SHRI SUHRID MULLICK CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of unauthorised persons regularly travel in reserved compartments, particularly in 103 UP AC Express between Patna and Danapur with the connivance of the Conductors who are on duty ; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to check this evil ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No. however, third class ticket holders and Indents in groups sometimes forcibly enter

reserved compartments of the train between Patna and Danapur.

(b) Surprise checks with staff in sufficient strength are conducted to stop this evil. Besides, Railway officials seek the co-operation of the student community by delivering lectures at local institutions.

INDIA'S EXPORT TRADE VIS-A-VIS WORLD EXPORT TRADE

491. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of growth of world export trade during the last three years ;

(b) the rate of growth of India's export trade during this period and whether it has kept pace with the rate of growth of world trade ; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, the steps that are being taken to maintain India's share in world trade ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

India's Exports Trade vis-a-vis World Trade (f.o.b.)

(Value in million
U.S. dollars)

(a) and (b)

Year	World	India
1968 ...	211900	1761
1969 ...	242800	1835
1970 ...	278800	2026
1971 ...	310300	2111

Annual compound rate of growth in
1969-1971. 13.6% 6.2%

(1) Excluding the trade of the Centrally Planned Economies.