

As a result of the steps taken, the position of theft and pilferages has improved in 1972. Special armed patrolling will be introduced in the affected installations as and when required.]

#### WAGON SHORTAGE

\*25 SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN.

SHRI RATTAN LAL JAIN :

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR :

SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA :

SHRI D. K. PATEL :

SARDAR AMJAD ALI :

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that acute wagon shortage throughout the country has adversely affected the movement of foodgrains, industrial finished goods and raw materials, coal, cement and other essential goods and even defence materials which in turn resulted in rise in prices, disruption in industrial activities as well as power crisis; and

(b) if so, what positive steps have been taken by Government to ease the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No Sir, the originating revenue earning traffic in the first quarter of the current financial year has shown an increase as compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

(b) Does not arise. However, the Railways have been keeping a close touch with trade, industrial and agricultural

interests to ensure adequate movement of raw materials and important finished products

#### SOFT LOANS TO KERALA FOR COIR INDUSTRY

\*26 SHRI N. K. KRISHNAN :  
SHRI S. KUMARAN :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had agreed to provide soft loans to the State of Kerala for reorganising the coir industry in the State;

(b) whether any such loans have been given to far, and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in providing such assistance?

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

#### STATEMENT

A request for the grant of a soft-loan of Rs 150 for re-vitalising the coir industry in Kerala has been received from the State Government. They were asked to send a soundly conceived programme for revitalising the industry so as to make it self-supporting and viable. The proposal sent by them mainly related to revitalising 25 cooperative societies. Steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the societies would become viable and credit worthy had not been indicated. The State Government also did not indicate how and in what time, the amount was to be recovered. They were informed that unless future viability and satisfactory working of the societies was ensured interim assistance would not be of abiding value. It was proposed to send a team of officers to discuss the steps proposed to be taken in this regard, with the State Government authorities. The State Government have not accepted this proposal.