

ing imports and exports in the best interests of the country's economy ?

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

#### STATEMENT

Yes, Sir. The State Trading Corporation has been able to arrange import of adequate quantities of various raw materials in bulk in a planned and phased manner, at competitive prices, thereby effecting savings in foreign exchange and ensuring their supply to the consumers at reasonable prices. As regards exports, the STC has been able to eliminate internal competition amongst exporters, to secure the best prices from foreign buyers and to promote exports of various commodities, and has been at the same time, assisting small manufacturers in exporting their products.

#### CONTINUANCE OF EXISTING TRADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH U.K.

\*20. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approached the U. K. Government for the continuance of the existing trade arrangement upto 1975;

(b) if so, the reaction of U.K. Government thereto and whether any talks have been taken place or are likely to take place with that Government this regard; and

(c) if such talks have already taken place, the outcome thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In February 1972 the Government of India suggested to the U. K. Government the continuance of existing Indo-U.K. trade arrangements upto 31st January, 1975. The U.K. Government have sent a reply recently proposing an order of priority and a broad time-table for holding discussions on these problems.

The reply is under examination and the question of holding further talks with the U. K. Government will be decided in due course.

#### COAL SUPPLY TO THERMAL POWER STATIONS IN STATES

\*21. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE :

SHRI SITARAM KESRI :

SARDAR AMJAD ALI :

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railways could not provide adequate number of wagons to supply coal from the coal fields to different thermal power stations which caused recent power crisis in various regions ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

In fact Railways moved substantially more coal to the Power Houses from all the fields in 1971-72 as compared to the previous year as is indicated in the Statement laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### STATEMENT

Railways moved substantially more coal to the Power Houses from all the fields in 1971-72 as compared to the previous year, as may be seen from the figures given below:—

		in terms of wagons per month) (Approximate.)	
		1970-71	1971-72
West Bengal-Bihar	fields .. ..	26,547	29,583
Central India Coal	fields .. ..	1,476	3,001
Pench & Chanda	fields .. ..	4,202	6,130
Singareni fields	.. ..	4,563	4,797

Recent power crisis in the various regions was caused by reasons other than the shortage of rail transport like low levels of water in the hydrogeneration reservoirs, break down of Atomic Power Station at Tarapore, inability of some power houses to draw adequate coal and lignite from the normal planned sources by means other than rail etc.

During the period of this crisis railways have made arrangements to give increased supplies not only to those power houses which take coal normally by rail but also to those which never planned to take their coal supplies by rail and did not therefore have adequate rail facilities for any large scale supplies by rail. In doing so Railways had to undertake a lot of irrational, operationally inconvenient, uneconomical and unplanned movements at the cost of movement to the other consumers.

#### INDIAN AID FOR KARNALI HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT IN NEPAL

**\*22. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD :**  
**SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :**

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Nepal has sought India's assistance for the Karnali hydro-electric project in that country;

(b) if so, the nature and extent of assistance asked for; and

(c) the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) to (c) So far, His Majesty's Government of Nepal have approached India only for an assurance that India would be willing to purchase a large block of power from their Karnali Hydro-electric Project. India has agreed in principle.

**पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे पर सुपरैल से प्रतापगंज तक रेलवे लाइन का पुनर्निर्माण**

**\*23. श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे पर सुपरैल से प्रतापगंज तक रेलवे लाइन का पुनर्निर्माण करने हेतु कोई सर्वेक्षण किया गया था ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि अभी तक केवल सरायगढ़ तक ही रेलवे लाइन बिछाई गई है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार रेलवे लाइन को कब तक प्रतापगंज तक ले जाने का विचार रखती है और इस सम्बन्ध में विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं ?

†[RECONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY LINE FROM SUPRAIL TO PRATAPGANJ ON N. E. RAILWAY

**\*23. SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR :**  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS : be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was conducted for the reconstruction of a railway line from Suprail to Pratapganj on the North-Eastern Railway ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that railway line has been laid up to Saraighar only so far; and

(c) if so, by when Government propose to extend the railway line upto Pratapganj and what are the reasons for the delay in this regard ?]

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी) : (क) और (ख) सुपरैल से सरायगढ़ तक रेल सम्पर्क का निर्माण हाल में किया गया था। प्रतापगंज के रास्ते सरायगढ़ से फारबिसगंज तक की लाइन के लिए यातायात सर्वेक्षण प्रगति पर है।

(ग) सर्वेक्षण का काम पूरा हो जाने और रिपोर्ट की जांच कर लेने के बाद इस प्रस्ताव पर आगे विचार किया जायेगा।

†[ ] English translation.