

में उपमंत्री (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No contract for operating Murtaajapur-Achalpur narrow gauge line has been awarded to the Central Provinces Railway Company. Murtaajapur-Achalpur narrow gauge line is owned by the Central Provinces Railway Company Ltd., but under the Agreement entered into in 1916, the Central Railway (the then G.I.P. Railway) has to work and maintain the line till it is purchased by the Government. The line is accordingly being worked and maintained by the Central Railway.

(b) Does not arise, in view of the reply at (a).]

17. [Transferred to the 25th November, 1971.]

U.A.R. COTTON PRICES

18. SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JAGARLAMUDI:

SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL:
SHRI K. C. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/ विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report published in the "Economic Times" of the 31st August, 1971 to the effect that the United Arab Republic has been charging 10 per cent more from India on its cotton exports as compared to the international prices for the same type of cotton;

(b) if so, the excess amount paid by India due to the 10 per cent extra charges during the last one year;

(c) whether Government have negotiated with the U.A.R. authorities to bring at par the prices of cotton with the international prices; and

(d) whether Government propose to find other markets for buying cotton; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE/ विदेश व्यापार मंत्री (SHRI L. N.

MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. But the report is not correct.

(b) and (c) All sales of cotton in the UAR are canalised through the Egyptian Cotton General Organisation to all countries including India and these sales are made on the basis of official prices announced from time to time. There is no question of the UAR charging excess from India.

(d) Besides imports from UAR, India is already importing cotton from the USA, Sudan, Peru, Mexico and East Africa.

FASTER TRAIN BETWEEN HOWRAH AND PURI

19. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to run a faster train between Howrah and Puri or Waltair on the South Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS/ रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No. (b) Does not arise.

FREQUENT POWER FAILURE IN CALCUTTA

20. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER/ सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the repeated disruption of industrial production and normal life in Calcutta and its suburbs on account of frequent load-shedding and failure of electricity; and

(b) what are the reasons for the frequent load-shedding during July to October, 1971 and the steps taken by Government to improve the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER / सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री