

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

(a) and (b) Statistics of India's imports and exports during the period January to September, 1971 and January to September 1970 are as under :—

Period	Imports	Exports (including re-exports)
	( Rs. in crores )	
January—Sep., 71	1405	1171
January—Sep., 70	1210	1066

From the above it will be seen that exports during the current year compare favourably with those of last year.]

**WAGON DEAL WITH SOVIET UNION**

741. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wagon deal with Soviet Union which had been abandoned due to differences on the question of price has been reopened and negotiations started in this regard; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands at present ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) :

(a) and (b) During the Prime Minister's visit to USSR in September, 1971, the question of export of railway wagons from India to USSR was also raised by the officials accompanying the Indian delegation. The discussions, however, remained inconclusive. These will be resumed at an appropriate occasion depending upon the response from the USSR side.

†•[ J English translation.

**FURNACE OIL FOR ASSAM TEA GARDENS**

742. SHRI GOLAP BARBORA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the tea industry in Assam are facing great difficulty in getting furnace oil required for use by the factories; and

(b) what are the reasons for this scarcity and what steps are being taken by Government to make it available for the tea gardens in Assam ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) :

(a) and (b) It has been reported that production of furnace oil both at Gauhati and Digboi was affected in September and October, 1971 owing to restrictions in movement between Assam and rest of India as well as within the State of Assam due to breaches in railways and consequent traffic dislocation because of floods and rains in Assam, North Bengal and Bihar. This created a temporary scarcity in supply of furnace oil to the tea industry in Assam. In the meantime, Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India have been advised to allow tea estates to purchase weathered crude oil. As soon as rail breaches are repaired and normal traffic is restored, the temporary scarcity of the furnace oil would be overcome.

**PAYMENT OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO FORMER CHAIRMAN, RAILWAYS BOARD**

743. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANA RAYANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether the retirement benefits due to Shri B. C. Ganguli, former Chairman of the Railway Board has since been given to him; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) :

(a) and (b) Shri B. C. Ganguli has not claimed his retirement dues by letter or by signing the forms as required by the rules. He has been requested to apply for the same and necessary forms for his signature have been sent to him.