

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 (includ- ing re-ex- ports)
	(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 ?

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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 dele-  
gation. The discussions, however, remained  
inconclusive. These will be resumed at an  
appropriate occasion depending upon the  
response from the USSR side.

[ ] 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 Govern-  
ment to make it available for the tea gardens  
in Assam ?

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GEORGE) (a) and (b) It has been repor-  
ted 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 scarci-  
ty 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.