

REQUIREMENT OF WAGONS

*171. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE :
SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA
MENON :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report appearing in the Statesman of 23rd December, 1970 (Calcutta Edition) that Wagon Builders in Calcutta have received orders for only 8000 wagons for the year 1970-71 as against their normal production of 27,000 ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the decline in the order ; and

(c) whether the Railway Board have finalised their requirement of wagons for 1971-72 ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On account of non materialisation of freight traffic during the first two years of the Fourth Plan, the freight traffic target anticipated at the end of the Plan has been reduced in consultation with the Planning Commission and the Economic Ministries concerned. Accordingly, the wagon procurement has also been suitably pulled down keeping in view the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee and the Administrative Reforms Commission.

(c) Yes, Sir.

POSTS SURRENDERED BY RAILWAYS

*172. SHRI MCNORANJAN ROY :
SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts surrendered during 1970-71 by the railway authorities, railway-wise and category-wise ;

(b) the number of vacancies existing as on 1st March, 1971, railway-wise and category-wise ;

(c) the steps taken to fill up the vacancies ; and

(d) the number of casual labour on roll as on 1st March, 1971 ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Number of posts surrendered, as a measure of economy, during the period from 1.4.1970 to 30.9.70 is as under :—

Class I & II :	3
Class III :	1156
Class IV :	1418
TOTAL :	2577

Complete information upto 31.3.1971 indicating also the position Railway-wise, is being collected and will be furnished later.

(b) The information is not readily available and is being obtained.

(c) Railways are taking steps to fill up the vacancies either by absorption of surplus staff or by promotion or by direct recruitment. Ban on recruitment has been relaxed, to some extent, to permit recruitment in certain categories.

(d) About 3 lakhs.

COUNTING PROCEDURE IN RECENT ELECTIONS
TO LOK SABHA

*173. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :
SHRI SUNDAR SINGH
BHANDARI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the counting procedure in the recent Lok Sabha elections was changed by the Election Commission without consulting the political parties ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some political parties protested against this decision of the Election Commission ; and

(c) if so, what is the Election Commission's response in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) to (c) The counting procedure was changed by suitable amendment to the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, on the basis of the recommendation to that effect by the Election Commission. While some political parties wrote to the Commission against any change in the counting procedure, the Commission received several representations demanding a change in the system of counting to better ensure the secrecy of voting and to prevent coercion and intimidation. Taking into consideration all facts and circumstances, the Election Commission recommended suitable amendment to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961. The Government accepted the recommendation and the amendments were notified on the 27th January, 1971.

उद्योगों की प्राथमिकता सूची में पटसन उद्योग का शामिल किया जाना

*174. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : क्या औद्योगिक विकास तथा आन्तरिक व्यापार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पटसन उद्योग को उद्योगों की प्राथमिकता सूची में सम्मिलित नहीं किया गया है ; और

(ख) पटसन उद्योग में नई प्रकार की उत्पादन किस्मों तथा मंडी विकास की कौन-कौन सी योजनायें तात्कालिक कार्यान्वयन के लिये सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं ?

†[INCLUSION OF JUTE INDUSTRY IN PRIORITY LIST OF INDUSTRIES

*174. SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jute

Industry has not been included in the Priority List of Industries ; and

(b) the details of schemes which are under Government's consideration for urgent implementation with regard to developing new varieties of jute and creating new markets therefor ?]

औद्योगिक विकास मंत्री (श्री मोईनुल हक चौधरी) : (क) पटसन उद्योग विदेशी मुद्रा नियतन के मामले में प्राथमिकता प्राप्त उद्योग है ।

(ख) सज्जा (फरनिशिंग) के लिये विरंजक और सजावटी धागा बनाने के लिये रेशा परिवर्तन की नई तकनीक पर प्रयोग हो रहा है । पटसन निगम इस किस्म के पटसन सामान के लिए नए बाजार तैयार करने के आवश्यक अभ्युपायों की जांच कर रहा है ।

† [THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) The jute textile industry is included as a priority industry for the purpose of foreign exchange allocations.

(b) Experiments are going on in the new technique of fibre conversion for the manufacture of bleached and decorative fabrics for furnishing. The Jute Corporation is looking into the measures necessary for creating new markets for this variety of jute goods.]

CONDUCTORS IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

*175. SHRI D. THENGARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1494 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th December, 1970 and state whether he will, lay on the Table of the House the copies of the communications issued to the Railways repeating the orders on various dates as mentioned in the answer to part (b) of the question referred to above ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : Copies of the orders issued to the Railway Administrations in this regard are placed on the Table of the Sabha.