

(iv) Steps taken by Railway in this regard

Steps taken by Railway in this regard are:—

- (i) Periodical re-assessment of forecasts for major streams of traffic in consultation with industries/Ministries concerned and Planning Commission.
- (ii) Intensive drive to attract high rated traffic.
- (iii) Better security arrangements in co-ordination with Railway Protection Force and Civil and Railway Police.
- (iv) Patrolling of track and yards and providing armed escorts for goods trains wherever necessary in affected areas.
- (v) Co-ordination by criminal intelligence wing of Railway Protection Force and the Civil and Railway Police to track down the agencies indulging in such thefts and purchase of stolen materials.
- (vi) State Governments have been approached to help the Railways by controlling interference of undesirable elements.
- (vii) Replacement of copper wires/conductors and wagon brass bearings by aluminium/graphite-cast iron and other metals not subject to theft due to lesser value. ✓

TAKE OVER OF ANDHRA SCIENTIFIC COMPANY

*24. SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to take over the Andhra Scientific Company at Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, at what stage the proposal is at present?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b) Approaches have been made from various quarters to the Government for taking over the Company under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. However, no final decision has yet been taken.

IMPORT OF GRAPHITE ELECTRODES

*25. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to import 5000 tonnes of graphite electrodes to meet the requirements of the indigenous industry; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for its import?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the indigenous production could not meet the increased requirements of the Electric Steel Furnace industry, import had to be resorted to.

PRINTING OF BALLOT PAPERS

*26. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of ballot papers that were printed during the last General Election held for the Lok Sabha; and

(b) the names of the States and the printing presses in which these ballot papers were printed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.