

LOSS SUFFERED BY RAILWAYS

549. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the loss sustained or the profit made by different railway zones during the last three years and the estimate for the current year; and

(b) how much loss has been sustained in each of the railway zones due to suburban transport and uneconomic railway lines (the figures of loss on both accounts to be given separately for each of the zones) ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) : (a) and (b) A statement is placed 01 the table of the Sabha. [See Appendix LXXIV, Annexure No. 70.]

DINING CARS IN N. E. RAILWAYS

550. SHRI GOLAP BARBORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Agarwal & Co., which hold licences for running five dining cars in the North-east Frontier Railway have sublet the same to different parties at exorbitant rates ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard and whether Government propose to take over the catering arrangements in the dining cars and the refreshment rooms at the Stations of the North-east Frontier Railway ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) : (a) Dining cars on North-east Frontier Railway are running only on 3UP/ 4DN Assam Mails between Tinsukia and Barauni and on 16UP/15DN Expresses between Gauhati and Barauni and the contracts for these dining cars are held by Shri P. R. Agarwala and not M/s. Agarwal & Co. There is no evidence of subletting of these contracts by the contractor.

(b) There is no proposal at present to take over these dining cars under departmental management. Proposals to introduce departmental catering, where it would be financially viable, at important stations of North-east Frontier as well as other zonal Railways are under consideration.

IMPORT OF RAW MATERIALS

551. SHRI INDER SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the fall in production as a result of the shortage of raw materials the indigenous demand for industrial goods has outstripped the supply giving an upward push to the price ; and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the desirability of relaxing the import licensing restrictions to enable industries to procure their own raw materials to meet the demand and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) There has been no perceptible change in wholesale prices in the last one year^m respect of manufactured goods.

(b) To meet the shortage of raw materials, Government have introduced certain Liberalisations in the policy regarding import of raw materials by Actual Users.

STOPPING OF WEST COAST EXPRESS AT TIRUR RAILWAY STATION

552. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from the residents of Tirur, Malappuram District, Kerala demanding that the West Coast Express should be stopped at Tirur Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One is a resolution passed by the Block Development Committee on 12-10-70 and the other passed by Cheriamunda Mandalam Youth Congress Organisation on 18-10-70. The