

wheelsets in 1967-68 was 20,024 tonnes (15,420 sets). The main reasons for shortfall in production were :—

- (1) Persistent labour troubles
- (2) Shortage of wheel quality steel and
- (3) Certain technical difficulties.

(b) By and large, the Plant expects to be able to meet the requirement of Railways for 1968-69. The following steps are however being taken to improve production.

(i) additional balancing equipments are being installed in order to remove the technical difficulties.

(ii) the capacity of the existing furnace producing wheel steel is being increased from 100 tonnes to 120 tonnes. In the meantime wheel quality steel is also proposed to be procured from Alloy Steel Plant.

(iii) the recommendations of Pande Committee with regard to maintenance and inspection are being implemented.

(iv) reconditioning of some of the equipment has been taken in hand.

CATALOGUE OF INDUSTRIES WITH DGTD

1053. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any catalogue of indigenous capacity for different items of products has been prepared by the D.G.T.D. in order to check their indiscriminate imports

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The D. G. T. D. regularly publishes the Hand-Books of indigenous manufacturers of (i) Engineering Stores and (ii) Chemical and Miscellaneous Stores, giving the names of items produced in the country and the names of their manufacturers registered with D. G. T. D. These Hand-books are brought up-to-date once every year to include the latest information about the new items developed in the country.

Besides, the annual report of the D.G.T.D. gives the data on installed capacity, production, number of units etc. in various industries looked after by D.G.T.D. The Handbooks and Annual Reports are priced publications.

(c) Does not arise.

EXPORT OF OIL, OIL CAKES ETC.

1054. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any detailed policy has been formulated for exploiting the potential markets for exporting oil, oil cakes, processed foods, cashew and tobacco;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the countries where these goods could be exported at a great advantage ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to increase our exports, wherever necessary, cash assistance and import replenishment licences are being granted. Sub-committees have been formed for considering measures for increasing exports of these items. Sales-cum-Study Teams/Delegations are being sent to explore foreign markets. Besides participation in Trade Fairs/Exhibitions in the potential markets, export performances are constantly watched in different markets. As and when necessary, the required promotional measures are taken to increase the exports.

(c) U. S. A., U. K., U. S. S. R., Czechoslovakia, Poland, Australia, Western Europe etc.

NEYVELI LIGNITE CORPORATION

1055. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) when the Neyveli Lignite Corporation of India Ltd., was started at Neyveli (South Arcot District) in Madras State ;

(b) the amount of capital invested in the Corporation;

(c) whether the Corporation is running 'on profit;

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) the amount of loss sustained by the Corporation upto 31st March, 1968?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) The Company was incorporated on 14th November, 1956.

(b) Rs. 174.45 crores upto end of June 1968.

(c) No Sir.

(d) The production units of the Project, particularly the Fertilizer and Briquetting and Carbonisation Plans, have not been able to work to their full capacities owing to various technical and other difficulties.

(e) The cumulative loss from its inception upto 31st March, 1968, is Rs. 1957 crores.

INDIAN RAILWAYS' OFFER TO HELP SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES

1056. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways have decided to offer technical and managerial help to any South American countries for the development of their Railways; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries which have sought assistance from the Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI CM. POONACHA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Commerce had learnt that the Uruguayan State Railways were seeking external assistance for the renovation of track and bridges on a 191 kilometre long section of their railway system and for supply of some rolling stock. At the request of the Ministry of Commerce, two Railway Engineers were deputed to Uruguay to assist the State Trading Corporation to prepare an estimate and offer for the work on a turn-key basis. It is understood that the State Trading Corporation have submitted an offer to the Uruguayan State Railways for the work.

BUS-TRAIN COLLISION NEAR BHOPAL I

1057. SARDAR RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 29 persons were killed in a bus-train collision near Bhopal recently ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the collision occurred on an unmanned level crossing; and

(c) if so, the number of such unmanned level crossings in the different railways and the number of accidents which took place at such level crossings during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b) Presumably the reference is to the accident which took place at an unmanned level crossing near the Down Outer signal of Kisoni Station of the Western Railway on 16-5-1968. In this accident 30 persons were killed and 47 sustained injuries due to the rash and negligent driving of the bus driver who tried to clear the level crossing ahead of the train.

(c) On Indian Railways, there are, at present, about 22,233 unmanned level crossings (excluding 'D' class Cattle crossings) as per details given below :

Name of Railways	No. of unmanned level crossings
Western	4878
Southern	3050
North Eastern	2146
Northeast Frontier	1375
Eastern	740
South Central	2163
South Eastern	3260
Central	1182
Northern	3439
TOTAL	22,233

During the year 1965-66, 1966-67 and 1967-68, 80, 77 and 79 accidents respectively took place at unmanned level crossings on the Indian Government Railways.