

SEWAK) : (a) Exact figures are not available regarding production and stock of mica scrap in NeJlore District (Andhra Pradesh). According to information received by the Mica Export Promotion Council from the Mica Chamber of Commerce, Gudur, there were large stocks of Mica scrap lying in Gudur.

(b) Government have fixed a minimum price for export of scrap mica in the interest of exporters and to protect the unit value. There have been representations to the Government both for increasing the minimum price and for reducing it. The matter was examined by the Mica Export Promotion Council in September, 1968 and the Council has recommended that it would not be necessary to reduce the minimum price, particularly considering the rise in the export value of scrap in 1967-68.

(c) The mica and its scrap being a stable mineral are not perishable products. However, they are likely to deteriorate in quality if not kept under shade.

#### NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

708. SHRI P. CHETIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of goods transported to and from Assam by the Northeast Frontier Railway during the year 1965-66 and 1966-67;

(b) the number of passengers travelling to and from Assam on the Northeast Frontier Railway during the period ; and

(c) the amount of income earned or loss sustained by the Railway during the period ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) to (c) Statistics of rail traffic and earnings are maintained only for each Railway Zone and not State-wise. The State of Assam is served by the Northeast Frontier Railway, but that Zonal Railway also serves the States of Bihar, Nagaland, West Bengal and the Union Territory of Tripura. Separate figures in respect of the State of Assam are, therefore, not available.

Figures are available of Passenger and Goods traffic on the Northeast Frontier Railway during the year 1965-66 and 1966-67. These are given below :—

	1965-66 (In thousands)	1966-67 (In thousands)
Net tonnes of goods traffic carried	9,978	9,514
Passengers carried	47,384	47,336

The net loss on the Northeast Frontier Railway including dividend paid to General Revenues, during these years was Rs. 5.69 crores in 1965-66 and Rs. 9.32 crores in 1966-67.

#### MANUFACTURE OF STEEL DISCS WITH FOREIGN COLLABORATION

709. COL. B. H. ZAIDI : SHRI C. D. PANDE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign collaboration for the manufacture of steel discs for agricultural implements is permitted ;

(b) whether a firm by the name of Modern Farm Aids submitted a collaboration agreement with a party in Yugoslavia but was informed by the Directorate General of Technical Development that it should be possible to manufacture the discs without foreign collaboration ; and

(c) whether the application of a Meerut firm for collaboration with Ralph McKay Limited of Australia is under active consideration of Government ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) Foreign collaboration for the manufacture of agricultural discs is not being permitted now.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) M/s. Growmore Tools Corporation of Meerut have submitted a proposal for financial collaboration with M/s. Ralph McKay of Australia for the manufacture of agricultural discs. It is under examination.