

asures necessary for increasing exports, and among other things the availability of foreign exchange. In addition to the present strength, the proposal of our Mission in Hong Kong for a typist clerk is under examination in the light of the above criterion.

NOTINGS ON FILES IN HINDI

673. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the sections of the Industrial Development Department of the Ministry of Industrial Development and Company Affairs where noting on files in Hindi has been started ;

(b) the names of the sections where noting on files in Hindi has been started in regard to cases of a complicated nature ; and

(c) the date by which full arrangements for noting in Hindi are likely to be made in regard to the rest of the works ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) Hindi notings on cases of routine nature have been started in the following sections : —

1. R. & I.
2. Estt. II.
3. Estt. III.
4. Parliament (Hindi Unit).
5. I. C. C. (I) Section.

<b) None.

(c) As soon as practicable.

FREE RAILWAY PASSES

674. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway employees who were eligible for free passes during 1967-68, including retired persons ;

(b) the number of free passes issued during the period; and

(c) the manner in which the sanctioned fund for the non-issued passes has been disposed of and the amount thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid en the Table of the Sabha.

(c) No funds are provided for the issue of passes to Railway employees.

HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES MANUFACTURED IN THE COUNTRY

675. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the annual total quantity of hospital equipment and appliances manufactured in the country from stainless steel ; and

(b) the gauge-wise break-up of stainless steel used for these articles ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

676. [Transferred to the 13th. Decem ber, 1968.]

DELEGATIONS SENT ABROAD TO PROMOTE EXPORT OF TEA AND JUTE

677. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of trade delegations sent abroad so far during this year or which are likely to be sent abroad by Government with a view to promote India's exports ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to promote India's exports of tea and jute and the result thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) 11 Trade Delegations have been sent abroad so far and 2 more are likely to be sent by Government during 1968 for promoting India's exports.

(b) Tea.—Some of the more important steps taken to increase exports of tea are : (i) participation along with other producing countries and the local tea trade in Tea Councils, which have been organised to promote consumption of tea as a beverage in certain areas ; (ii) undertaking promotional measures for Indian tea through the offices of the Tea Board in the U. K., West Europe, U.S.S.R., U.S.A. and Australia; (iii) taking part in trade fairs and exhibitions abroad ; (iv) organising sampling of Indian tea in prominent hotels and restaurants, holiday resorts etc. abroad on special occasions ; (v) advertisements through appropriate media of publicity in countries abroad; and (vi) promotion of special packs containing pure Indian tea, with the cooperation of local blenders and packers in selected market abroad.

The reduction in export duty on tea and the abolition of the special excise duty on tea announced on the 30th September, 1968 are also expected to help in increasing exports of tea.

As a result of the steps taken for promoting exports of tea, the exports have increased from 190.38 million Kilograms in 1966-67 to 203.33 million Kilograms in 1967-68.

Jute.—The following steps have been taken to promote India's exports of jute goods : —

(i) Compulsory pre-shipment inspection of jute goods meant for export to ensure proper quality of our exports.

(ii) Diversification of production. A sum of Rs. 5 crores has been set apart for loan assistance to jute mills for diversification of production into lines which have immediate export potential and which command a higher unit value.

(iii) Continuous research is being carried on for finding out new uses for jute. A new bleaching technique for hessian for decorative fabrics is being exploited commercially in the U.S.A.

(iv) The promotional efforts of the industry are subsidised by Government.

(v) Market studies are conducted periodically.

The exports of jute goods which had declined to 734,200 tonnes in 1966-67 improved in 1967-68 to 751,400 tonnes. However, during the current year, there has been a set-back due to an exceptionally short crop of jute and mesta and the consequential abnormal rise in the price of jute. Export of Jute goods declined *from* 275,400 tonnes in April-July, 1967 to 227,500 tonnes in the corresponding period of the current year.

TRACTOR MANUFACTURE WITH FOREIGN COLLABORATION

678. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : SHRI

R. P. SINHA :

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

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to manufacture tractors with foreign collaboration ; and

(b) if so, with what countries or foreign concerns and on what terms ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (b) Government have under consideration a proposal to set up a unit in the public sector for the manufacture of tractors in collaboration with M/s. Motokov of Czechoslovakia. A final decision is yet to be taken.

LICENCE FOR MANUFACTURE OF TENNIS BALLS

679. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new licence for manufacture of Tennis balls has been given since 15th August, 1968 ;

(b) if so, what is the name of the party *, and