

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :

(a) Consequent on progressive completion of civil and construction work in the project, 1,405 employees were retrenched during 1966 and 1967.

(b) Engineers	85
Skilled artisans	66
Labourers	1,254
(mostly casual workers)	
TOTAL	1,405

(c) 50 out of 85 engineers and 4 out of 66 skilled artisans were able to secure alternative jobs.

DECLINE IN SALE PROCEEDS AT BOOKING WINDOWS UNDER S. E. RAILWAY

*24. SHRI N. PATRA :

SHRI M. PURKAYASTHA :
SHRI T. V. ANANDAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sale proceeds at the booking windows under the jurisdiction of the S. E. Railway is going down gradually ;

(b) if so, the percentage of such loss sustained since the beginning of the current financial year ; and

(c) the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of the answer to part (a), the questions do not arise.

EXPORTERS' CONSORTIUM

*25. SHRI BABUBHAI
M.

CHINAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any exporters' consortiums in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the exports have been effected through them during the past two years ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to information received, while there are no formal

consortia registered as such, informal consortia have been formed in the following commodities :—

(i) High Tension Power Transmission Lines.

(ii) All Aluminium and Steel Reinforced Aluminium Conductors.

(iii) Paper insulated lead covered Power Cables.

(iv) Two *ad hoc* consortia for quoting against tenders issued by Iraq and Sudan.

The Consortia for High Tension Power Transmission Lines has secured a contract for supply and erection of transmission line in Nigeria valued at about; Rs. 7 crores, which is currently under execution. Another contract for supply of power cables of value of Rs. 3.50. crores to Kuwait has been secured by the Consortium. A contract for Rs. 3.50 crores for textile machinery to UAR has been secured by the S.T.C, in association with Textile Machinery Manufacturers.

PRODUCTION OF COTTON

*26. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated raw cotton production in the country at the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan period ;

(b) the estimated demand for its consumption in the country and for its export; and

(c) the measures contemplated by Government to meet the shortfall, if any, including measures regarding synthetic substitutes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

A target of 81.07 lakh bales is being considered for the production of cotton by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan period (*i.e.* by 1973-74). This takes into account the developmental schemes to maximise production of cotton; ton. Even after taking into account the growth of synthetic substitutes, the total requirement of cotton by 1973-74