

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. Even after taking into account the growth of synthetic substitutes, the total requirement of cotton by 1973-74