

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

is expected to be about 85.22 lakh bales including 3.5 lakh bales for export. The gap of over 4.0 lakh bales between the targeted production and requirement is expected to be filled with imports of foreign cotton, which will be mostly extra long staple cotton.

IMPORT OF NON-FERROUS METALS

*27. SHRI B. N. MANDAL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that import of non-ferrous metals is expected to go up to the tune of Rs. 500 crores in 1973-74 ;

(b) the import value of these metals in 1967-68 ; and

(c) the plans which Government have to make the country self-sufficient in copper, zinc and lead and the stages in which the plans are proposed to be implemented ?

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

(a) The requirements of non-ferrous metals of different sectors of industry may go up to Rs. 500 crores in 1973-74 ; but the actual imports will depend upon the availability of foreign exchange.

(b) The imports of non-ferrous metals and their alloys during 1967-68 were of the value of Rs. 88.73 crores.

(c) A statement indicating in brief the plans for the development of copper, zinc and lead is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix LXVI, Annexure No. 1.]

रेल दुर्घटनाएं

*28. श्री राम सहाय : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन मास में कितनी छोटीबड़ी दुर्घटनायें किस-किस क्षेत्रीय रेलवे पर हुईं ;

(ख) 5 अक्टूबर, 1968 को हावड़ा जाने वाली तूफान एक्सप्रेस की दुर्घटना किस कारण हुई ;

(ग) 5 अक्टूबर 1968 के लगभग मध्य रेलवे के जखोरा स्टेशन के नजदीक हुई दुर्घटना

में पंजाब मेल के फुटबोर्ड पर यात्रा कर रहे कितने व्यक्ति मरे और कितने घायल व्यक्तियों का अभी इलाज चल रहा है ; और

(घ) दुर्घटना का कारण क्या था ?

t [TRAIN ACCIDENTS

*28. SHRI RAM SAHAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) how many major accidents took place during the last three months on each of the zonal Railways ;

(b) the causes of the accident involving the Toofan Express bound for Howrah on the 5th October, 1968 ;

(c) the number of persons who died while travelling on the footboard of the Punjab Mail as a result of an accident near Jakhaura station on the Central Railway around the 5th October, 1968, and the number of injured persons still undergoing treatment ; and

(d) the causes of the accident?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी० एम० पुनाचा) : (क)

सम्भवतः माननीय सदस्य का आशय उन दुर्घटनाओं से है जिनकी विधि कि जांच रेल संरक्षा आयोग द्वारा की जाती है। 1-8-68 से 31-10-68 तक भारतीय रेलों में ऐसी पांच दुर्घटनाएँ हुईं, दो-दो उत्तर और मध्य रेलों में तथा एक पूर्व रेलवे में।

(ख) प्रत्यक्षतः दुर्घटना का कारण यह था कि गाड़ी के इंजन से पांचवें डिब्बे के बायीं और के अगले रोलर बियरिंग घुरा बाक्स में रोलर बियरिंग जाम हो गया था।

(ग) और (घ) नं० 5 डाउन पंजाब मेल में यात्रा करने वाले 3 व्यक्तियों को मृत्यु हो गयी और 13 व्यक्तियों को चोटें आयीं, जिसमें से 5 व्यक्ति अभी अस्पताल में हैं। रेल संरक्षा के अपर आयुक्त के अन्तिम निष्कर्ष के अनुसार, सिगनल के खम्भे की सीढ़ी वास्तविक चल आयामों का उल्लंघन कर रही थी। उस सीढ़ी से टकरा जाने के कारण उपर्युक्त व्यक्ति हताहत हुए। नं० 5 डाउन पंजाब मेल से कुछ ही समय पहले जाने

t [] English translation.