

(b) if so, who was found responsible for this incident and what action was taken against him ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

†IMPORT OF WOOL FROM AUSTRALIA

280. SHRI S. K. D. PALIWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about seventeen lakh pounds of wool was imported from Australia last year ; and

(b) if so, how much of this wool was supplied upto September, 1967 to the industrial units in India preparing woollen goods ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी) : (क) ऊनी माल के निर्यातकों को अग्रिम रूप से कच्ची ऊन उपलब्ध कराने के लिये कोलम्बो योजना के अन्तर्गत नवम्बर 1966 से सितम्बर 1967 तक की अवधि में ऑस्ट्रेलिया से लगभग 16.26 लाख पौंड कच्ची ऊन का आयात किया गया था।

(ख) निर्यात के निमित्त ऊनी माल के उत्पादन के लिये ऊनी माल के प्रमुख निर्माताओं को आयातित कच्ची ऊन में से कुल 1.77 लाख पौंड दी गई थी।

‡[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESH) : (a) About 16.26 lakhs lbs. of raw wool was imported from Australia during the period November, 1966 to September, 1967 under the Colombo plan to be utilised for giving advances to exporters of woollen goods.

(b) Out of the raw wool imported, a total quantity of 1.77 lakhs pounds was supplied to leading manufacturers of woollen goods for production of woollen goods for export purposes.]

†UNIONS FOR EMPLOYEES OF R.P.F.

281. SHRI REWATI KANT SINHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the Railway Protection Force Act, the employees of the Force have been given the right to form their union through official channel ;

(b) if so, whether any all-India or regional union of the Railway Protection Force employees exists ; and

(c) if not, whether Government made any attempt to encourage and assist the formation of the unions ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS. (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No. However, according to the Railway Protection Force Act & Rules a member of the Force may be a member of an association composed of members of the service to which he belongs, or an association composed entirely of members of the Force.

(b) No.

(c) The Government are not averse to formation of such associations as referred to in (a) above.

†POWERS TO TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST EMPLOYEES OF RPF

282. SHRI REWATI KANT SINHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the erstwhile Watch and Ward department of the Railways, powers to take disciplinary action against the non-gazetted employees rested with Gazetted officers but since the formation of the Railway Protection Force these powers were given to Inspectors who are non-gazetted officers ;

(b) whether as a result of this change the Inspectors, who report against their subordinates, are also made in-charge of the departmental proceedings and finally the conclusions are reached on the basis of their findings ; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi but it could not be supplied to the Ministry, because of unavoidable circumstances.

‡[] English translation.