

**DIVERSION OF GOODS TRAFFIC TO ROAD  
TRANSPORT**

349. SARDAR RAM SINGH:  
SHRI UTTAM SINGH DUGAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

• (a) whether Government have made any assessment of the high rated long distance goods which during the last three years have been diverted to road transport;

(b) if so, what is the annual recurring loss to Government on this account; and

(c) what steps have been taken to win back the goods traffic?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (b) The traffic in high rated commodities is under continuous study the Railway Boards office as also in the zonal railways. Diversion to road transport is only one of several possible causes of a decline in the movement of any commodity, the quantum offered for rail movement depending also on internal production and marketable surplus. The precise extent of the diversion to road transport is not easy to quantify as estimates of movement by road are not available, and it is only possible to surmise the overall loss of traffic to the Railways from data on earnings, originating tonnage and total output of the commodities moved.

(c) Traffic in high rated commodities is sought to be attracted back to the railways by attempting to provide better service, and by offering better rates, both generally and for station-to-station movements.

**KENNEDY ROUND OF TARIFF  
NEGOTIATIONS**

350. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: SHRI  
RAM CHANDER:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been reached in the Kennedy round of tariff

cut negotiations; if so, what tariff cuts are being enforced under the agreement; and

(b) how far India's trade with U.K. and other countries is likely to be affected by these cuts in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) On May 15, 1967, agreement was reached amongst major participants on the essential elements of trade negotiations between them. Negotiations on other elements are in the process of being concluded.

In the agricultural field, the agreement envisages an international grains arrangement to stipulate basic minimum and maximum prices for wheat of standard qualities, and to provide for food aid to developing countries to an amount of 4.5 million metric tons of grain, annually over a period of 3 years.

In the industrial field, tariff cuts upto 50 per cent have been agreed upon in many areas. The United States have agreed to some meaningful concessions in respect of products important in our trade with them. The abridgement of our preferences in the United Kingdom is confined to a small sector of our trade with that country.

It will not be possible to strike a balance between gains and losses until the negotiations are finally concluded. The conclusion reached in these negotiations would be embodied in formal schedule. The requisite procedures are expected to be complete\* by the third week of June.

**DEMAND FOR CONTROL OF CEMENT**

351. SHRI RAM CHANDER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments including the

*Urgent Public Importance*

Government of Punjab have demanded control of cement;

(b) if so, the grounds advanced by them in support of their demand; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

12 NOON

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A  
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC  
IMPORTANCE**

**OUTBREAK OF FIRE AT THE RAJASTHAN  
ATOMIC POWER PROJECT, KOTA**

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया  
(मध्य प्रदेश): मैं माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी  
का ध्यान राजस्थान के एटॉमिक पावर  
प्रोजेक्ट, कोटा, में जो आग लगी उसकी  
ओर आकर्षित करता हूँ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): Sir, a fire broke out in the first unit of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project at Rana Pratap Sagar, Kota, at approximately 9.30 P.M. on Friday, the 12th May, 1967. The fire was put out with the help of fire fighting equipment at the project site and fire engines from Kota. The damage due to the fire is confined mostly to the scaffolding and shuttering erected by the contractor for the prestressed concrete dome of the main reactor building. Some damage has been caused to the reactor building by the hot pieces of wood which fell inside during the fire. The damage, however, is not extensive. Two temporary structures containing construction stores in the immediate vicinity were burnt out. Flying embers destroyed some electrical wires and other material in the open yard. The total

value of the damage done to Government property is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 2.5 lakhs, but the main portion of this is expected to be recovered from the insurers. There was no loss of life or serious personal injury. It is not expected that this fire will set back the schedule for completion of the project.

A Committee consisting of the following members has been set up by the Department of Atomic Energy to investigate into the cause of the fire:—

1. Shri G. H. Rajadhyaksha, Chief Vigilance Officer, (DAE)—*Chairman*.
2. Shri V. Surya Rao, Chief Project Engineer, (RAPP)
3. Shri V. R. Vengurlekar, Chief Engineer (Civil) (RAPP)
4. Shri S. G. Vengsarkar, Chief Fire Officer (BARG).

The terms of reference of the Committee are—

- (1) To investigate into the cause of the fire.
- (2) To determine the extent of the loss as well as the time delay involved in the completion of the station, *i.e.* RAPP—I.
- (3) To recommend measures to prevent recurrence of fire, and safety measures to minimise damage in case of accidents.
- (4) To recommend security measures needed to prevent wilful damage.

The Committee is expected to submit its report by the middle of June, 1967.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया :  
क्या श्रीमान् यह बतायेंगे—यह कमिटी जो  
जांच करेगी वह तो कौनसी है—कि प्राइम  
फैसी इस बात की जानकारी मिली या नहीं  
कि यह किसी ने पूर्व नियोजित योजना से इस  
तरह की गड़बड़ी की, आग लगाई और  
उसको क्षति पहुँचाई? एक बात।