

### 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 the 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 completed 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

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. GURUPADA-  
SWAMY): 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 shutter-  
ing 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 in-  
side during the fire. The damage,  
however, is not extensive. Two tem-  
porary structures containing construc-  
tion stores in the immediate vicinity  
were burnt out. Flying embers des-  
troyed some electrical wires and other  
material in the open yard. The total

value of the damage done to Govern-  
ment property is in the neighbour-  
hood of Rs. 2.5 lakhs, but the main  
portion of this is expected to be re-  
covered 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 fol-  
lowing 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)—Chair-  
man
- 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 Com-  
mittee are—

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

The Committee is expected to sub-  
mit its report by the middle of June,  
1967.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया :

क्या श्रीमान् यह बतायेंगे—रुमेटो जो  
जाच करेगी वह तो कहेगी ही—कि प्राइम  
फैसी इस बात की जानकारी मंत्री या नहीं  
कि यह किसी ने पूर्व नियोजित योजना से इस  
तरह की गड़बड़ी की, आग लगाई और  
उसको क्षति पहुँचाई? एक बात।