

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) During the discussions that were held in November 1966 with an Italian delegation led by their Minister of Foreign Trade, the Indian delegation impressed upon the Italian delegation the need for eliminating the various tariff and non-tariff barriers now in existence both in Italy and in the European Economic Community, of which Italy is a member. In particular, the need to abolish, or at least substantially reduce, the heavy import duties on items of export interest to India such as tropical products, black pepper, silk fabrics, jute and coir manufactures was emphasised, and the Government of Italy were urged to use their good offices to persuade the Community to do likewise in the course of the Kennedy Round negotiations. An aide memoire incorporating the various suggestions was also presented to the Italian delegation.

Since then, the matter has been pursued through our Embassy in Rome and through our Economic Mission in Brussels, and discussions have also taken place on the basis of the offers made by the Community in regard to duty reductions. These discussions are proposed to be pursued in Geneva as part of the Kennedy Round talks and also at the meeting of the Indo-Italian Joint Commission which is expected to take place in New Delhi sometime in April, 1967.

OVERCROWDING IN TRAINS STARTING FROM DELHI/NEW DELHI

54. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is heavy over-crowding in the trains starting from Delhi/New Delhi Railway Stations particularly in Srinagar Express;

(b) if so, how does the number of tickets issued for trains starting from Delhi/New Delhi compare with the reserved/unreserved capacity of the trains; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to meet this over-crowding?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) There is overcrowding on certain Mail and Express trains starting from Delhi/New Delhi while a number of passenger trains and shuttles are not fully occupied. 59 Up Srinagar Express is overcrowded during Summer.

(b) In view of 24 hours booking in force both at Delhi Main and New Delhi Stations, particulars of actual sale of tickets by particular trains are not easily determinable.

(c) Introduction of additional trains and/or augmentation of existing services, with a view to relieve overcrowding, is done to the extent operationally feasible and justified by traffic. Additional works have accordingly been planned in Delhi area to overcome operational difficulties at present existing for augmenting services.

STRIKE BY WORKERS OF GUNTAKAL TRANSHIPMENT SHED

55. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a strike by the workers of Guntakal transshipment shed in January, 1967;

(b) if so, what are the grievances of the workers;

(c) whether any of their demands have been conceded; and

(d) if not, what other steps have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) No Railway employee in Guntakal Transshipment Shed struck work; however about 150 piece rated labourers who are not regular Railway servants but who are paid on the basis of weight lifted by them, absented themselves on the 1st and 2nd January, 1967.