ployed therein are only casual labour, it is not considered appropriate to recognise any Union.

अमरीका से कपास का आयात

126. **श्री राजनारायण** : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अमरीका से अतिरिक्त कपास मंगाने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितनी गांठें मंगाई जाएंगी ; और

(ग) कब तथा किन शर्तों पर यह मंगाई जाएंगी ?

†[IMPORT OF COTTON FROM U.S.A.

126. SHRI RAJNARAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to import additional quantities of cotton from United States of America;

(b) if so, the number of bales to be imported; and

(c) when and on what conditions it will be imported?]

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री एम० शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) से (ग). सरकार अमरीका से कपास की अतिरिक्त मात्रा मंगाने की सम्भावना का पता लगा रही है। इसका ब्यौरा अभी तय किया जाना है।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI M. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c) Government is exploring the possibility of importing additional quantities of cotton from the U.S.A. details are still to be worked out.]

रेलवे बोर्ड में पदावनति तथा पदों की समाप्ति

127. **श्री राजनारायण :**
श्री वी० वी० रामस्वामी :

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे के घाटे के बजट के फलस्वरूप पदावनति की नीति के अपनाए जाने के प्रति रेलवे बोर्ड के अधिकारियों ने असन्तोष तथा विरोध प्रकट किया है ;

(ख) क्या रेलवे बोर्ड में संयुक्त विदेशकों के 51 पद समाप्त कर दिए गए थे किन्तु टिकटों की जांच के सहायक निदेशक का एक नया पद बना दिया गया था ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

†[DEMOTIONS AND ABOLITION OF POSTS IN RAILWAY BOARD

127. SHRI RAJNARAIN:
SHRI V. V. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers of the Railway Board have expressed dissatisfaction and opposition to the policy of demotions as a result of the deficit budget of the Railways;

(b) whether 51 posts of Joint Directors were abolished but a new post of Assistant Director for Ticket Checking was created in the Railway Board; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?]

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी० एम० पुनाचा) : (क) रेलवे बोर्ड ने इस तरह पदावनत करने की कोई नीति नहीं अपनायी है। इसलिए

†[ ] English translation.

इस तरह की नीति के प्रति असन्तोष या विरोध प्रकट करने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ख) और (ग). रेलों में विभिन्न स्तरों पर प्रशासन को गतिशील बनाने और प्रशासन-व्यय में किफायत बरतने के उद्देश्य से विभिन्न पदों के कार्य-भार और औचित्य की जांच की गयी है । इस सिलसिले में रेलवे बोर्ड के कार्यालय में संयुक्त निदेशकों के पद 6 समाप्त कर दिये गये हैं, लेकिन इन पदों पर काम करने वाले अधिकारियों को उसी ग्रेड में उपयुक्त पदों पर लगा दिया गया है । प्राक्कलन समिति की सिफारिश के अनुसार रेलों के विभिन्न खण्डों पर बिना टिकट यात्रा का अन्दाजा लगाने के लिए अगस्त, 1966 से सहायक निदेशक (टिकट जांच) का एक कनिष्ठ पद बनाया गया है । बिना टिकट यात्रा को कम करने के लिए उपाय निकालने के उद्देश्य से समय समय पर इस तरह की समीक्षा की जाती है ।

†[THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) There has been no policy of demotions, as such, adopted by the Railway Board and therefore, the question of expression of dissatisfaction and oppositon to such a policy does not arise.

(b) and (c). In order to streamline the administration at various levels on the Railways and to effect economy in administrative expenditure, a review of workload of and justification for various posts has been undertaken. In this connection, 6 posts of Joint Directors have been given up in the Railway Board's Office but the incumbents of these posts have been suitably provided for in the same grade. A junior post of Asstt. Director, Ticket Checking, was created in August, 1966 for making an assessment of the extent of ticketless travel on different sections of the Railways as recommended by the Estimates Committee. Such reviews are undertaken periodically in order to devise measures for reducing the incidence of ticketless travel.]

†[ ] Hindi translation.

PRODUCTION OF DRY BATTERY CELLS

128. SHRI V. M. CHORDIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated consumption of dry batteries in India;

(b) what is the present production;

(c) the number of companies which have been licensed to produce dry batteries cells;

(d) what is their production against the target of production for which these have been licensed; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to increase production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) to (e) There are 5 units which hold licences under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for manufacture of dry cells and two more units have been given letters of intent. The total licensed capacity is 481.5 million number per annum and the letters of intent have been issued for a capacity of 105 million numbers per annum. The production during the last 2 years was as follows:

Year	Production
1965-66	293.31 million numbers
1966-67	358.82 million numbers

During the year 1965-66, 28 million numbers of cells were exported and during 1966-67 (upto November, 1966) 12 million numbers have been exported. As against the above, production during the year 1966-67 was 358.82 million numbers. Thus the average of indigenous consumption during the past two years has been of the order of 300 million numbers.

2. The production target for Fourth Plan is estimated at 650 million num-