

(b) The representation covered the following points:—

- (i) Uniform rate of railway freight on cotton;
- (ii) Import of modern types of machinery;
- (iii) Creation of special fund for assisting the mills to obtain adequate financial assistance;
- (iv) Bringing of excise duties to the pre-budget level;
- (v) Desirability of lifting the present statutory control on production and distribution; and
- (vi) Early payment of amounts of Export Incentives.

(c) The Government have abolished the basic excise duty at the grey stage on controlled varieties of mill cloth and have also granted a loan of Rs. 5 crores to enable the Indian Cotton Mills Federation to meet their obligation. It is not proposed to lift the present control on production and prices of varieties of mill-made cloth of mass consumption.

#### RAILWAY LINE FROM KOLHAPUR TO RADHANAGARI

606. SHRI G. R. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for construction of a Railway line from Kolhapur to Radhanagari is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) whether the work will be undertaken during the Fourth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### CRITERIA FOR NEGOTIATIONS FOR GOODS/ PARCELS HANDLING TENDERS

607. SHRI A. C. GILBERT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any criteria have been laid down for negotiations in regard to tenders for goods/parcels handling;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that certain unscrupulous tenderers initially do not quote reasonable and/or realistic rates but offer their reduced rates after knowing the rates tendered by other parties;

(c) if so the steps taken to discourage such practices;

(d) whether complaints of corrupt practices in negotiations have been brought to the notice of Government in regard to dealing with tenders for goods/parcels handling contracts in Allahabad Division; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Negotiations are required to be held where all the tenders are considered to be unreasonably high in value or where the lowest tender is unacceptable for any reason and where the next higher offers are considered unreasonably high compared to the lowest tender, if it is felt that the inviting of fresh tenders is not likely to fetch more advantageous offers. In the former case, negotiations are undertaken with two or three lowest tenderers and in the latter with two or three of the tenderers next above the lowest. As each of the tenderers quotes his negotiated rate in secret to the administration and the same is not known to the other tenderers, the question of advantage being taken by any contractor on the basis of his knowledge of the original rates