

the State Governments and State Government Railway Police.

(c) The Chief Secretaries and Chief Ministers assured the Minister for Railways that the Railways would be given full protection in putting down hooliganism.

PIERCING OF COTTON PRICES

266. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of occasions on which the ceiling price for cotton was pierced during 1965-66 cotton season; and

(b) the action taken by Government to bring the prices at the ceiling level?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI M. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) It was reported that some varieties of cotton were being sold in July, 1966 at prices above appropriate ceiling prices.

(b) Attention of the mills and trade was drawn to the relevant provisions of the Statutory notification laying down the cotton price policy for the season.

RETRENCHMENT OF WORK-MINISTRIES ON WESTERN RAILWAY

267. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of work mis-tries retrenched from the survey and

construction department of the Western Railway;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the Western Railway Labour Union for their re-employment;

(c) if so, what action has been taken in the matter; and

(d) whether any proposal to give preference to these workers in newly created jobs on the Western Railway is under Government's consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) 109.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes.

EXPORT DUTY ON TEA

268. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the export duty and to refund the excise duty on export of tea; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI M. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) With a view to provide some relief to the low-priced teas, the duty has been revised with effect from the 11th November, 1966 and fixed on a value-slab basis. The details of the revised rates are as indicated below:—

1. Tea, value of which does not exceed Rs. 4 per kilogram.	80 paise per kilogram.
2. Tea, value of which exceeds Rs. 4 per kilogram but does not exceed Rs. 8 per kilogram.	80 paise per kilogram plus 10 paise per kilogram for every 50 paise or part thereof in value in excess of Rs. 4 per kilogram.
3. Tea, value of which exceeds Rs. 8 per kilogram but does not exceed Rs. 12 per kilogram.	Rs. 1.60 per kilogram plus 15 paise per kilogram for every 50 paise or part thereof in value in excess of Rs. 8 per kilogram.
4. Where value exceeds Rs. 12 per kilogram	Rs. 3 per kilogram.

No proposal is under consideration of Government for refund of excise duty on export of tea.