

by textile mills at the 1963 level with a view to affording protection to the handloom industry. Government had accepted the recommendation of the Powerloom Enquiry Committee.

No dhoti quota has so far been fixed for the mills for 1966; the Textile Commissioner will issue orders so as to ensure that in future dhoti production by the mills does not exceed the 1963 level. In the meantime the dhoti quota fixed under the Dhories (Additional Excise Duty) Act, 1953 (i.e. 60% of the mill's packing in 1951-52), however, continues. The actual production of dhories in the years 1963, 1964 and 1965 was 331 million metres, 334 million metres and 319 million metres respectively.

DISALLOWANCE OF SALES TAX ON COAL PURCHASED BY RAILWAYS

144. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board have decided to disallow sales tax on coal purchased since 1962;

(b) whether the State Governments, which are affected by the decision, have asked for reconsideration of the decision; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) Yes, on coal dispatched under the Colliery Control Order.

(b) The State Governments of West Bengal and Bihar have made certain representations in the matter.

(c) The recovery of sales tax on coal already paid on past transactions is pending for the time being. The legal opinion obtained by the State Government is being considered in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR IMPORT OF ESSENTIAL RAW MATERIALS

145. RAJA SHANKAR PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allocate

additional foreign exchange for import of essential raw materials for the current financial year in view of the liberalisation of import policy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH) : (a) and (b) The liberalised import policy, recently announced by Government, provides for the grant of special import licences on a liberal basis for the import of essential items of raw materials, components and spares for meeting the requirements of Actual Users both in the scheduled and non-scheduled sectors for the period April 1966—March 1967. The details of this liberalised import policy have been published in the Gazettes of India Extraordinary dated the 23rd June, 1966, 28th June, 1966 and 12th July, 1966.

PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON IN MADHYA PRADESH

146. RAJA SHANKAR PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of IRON AND STEEL be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 925 in the Lok Sabha on 25th February, 1966 and state :

(a) whether any decision has since been taken in respect of the grant of industrial licence to Madhya Pradesh Government for production of 300,000 tonnes of pig iron per annum; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF IRON AND STEEL (SHRI T. N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) Since adequate capacity has already been licensed to meet the anticipated demand for pig iron by the end of the Fourth Five-Year Plan, it has not been possible to grant an industrial licence to the Madhya Pradesh Government. Should it, however, be found later that some of the capacity licensed is not likely to fructify, the application of the Madhya Pradesh Government could be reconsidered.

फफूंद रेलवे स्टेशन पर टिकटों का उपलब्ध न होना

147. श्रीमती सरलाभद्रौरिया : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उत्तर रेलवे के फफूंद स्टेशन पर यात्रियों को टिकट उपलब्ध नहीं हो रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो कब से टिकट नहीं मिल रहे हैं, और

(ग) उत्तर रेलवे के किन-किन स्टेशनों पर यात्रियों को टिकट उपलब्ध नहीं हो रहे हैं ?

†[NON-AVAILABILITY OF TICKETS AT PHAPHUND RAILWAY STATION

147. SHRIMATI SARLA BHADURIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether tickets are not available to the passengers at Phaphund station on the Northern Railway;

(b) if so, since when tickets are not available; and

(c) the names of stations on the Northern Railway where tickets are not available to the passengers ?]

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० राम सुमन सिंह) : (क) जी नहीं। कुछ गन्तव्य स्टेशनों के लिए और कुछ दर्जों के लिए छपे हुए कार्ड टिकटों की कमी हो गई है। यह कमी केवल अस्थायी है, लेकिन उनकी जगह टिकट पंचियां जारी की जाती हैं।

(ख) मवाल नहीं उठता। केवल कुछ स्टेशनों के लिए जून, 1966 के अन्त में छपे हुए कार्ड टिकट उपलब्ध नहीं हैं।

(ग) उत्तर रेलवे पर ऐसा कोई स्टेशन नहीं है, जहाँ यात्रियों को टिकट नहीं मिलते। लेकिन उत्तर रेलवे के निम्नलिखित स्टेशनों पर कुछ गन्तव्य स्टेशनों के लिए छपे हुए कार्ड टिकटों की अस्थायी कमी रही है और उनके बदले टिकट पंचियां जारी की जा रही हैं—बाराणसी, प्रतापगढ़, मिमरोली, राय-बरेली, सकनेसगढ़, फफूंद, कोसमा, मेनपुरी, फिरोजाबाद, प्रेमपुर, रुरा, इटावा, चकेरी, विन्ध्याचल, खागा, मेजारोड, कुरस्ती क्लान, मिराथू, मराय भोपत, शिकोहाबाद, कुलवा,

हिरनगांव, पनकी, अलीगढ़, टिन्डौली, मैथा, पाता, हाथरस, हाथरस किला, जवाहरपुर कम्सेन, सुबेदारगंज।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) No. There is a only temporary shortage of printed card tickets for certain destinations and for certain classes, but Blank Paper tickets are issued in lieu thereof.

(b) Does not arise. Only printed card tickets for certain destinations are not available since the end of June, 1966.

(c) There are no stations on the Northern Railway where tickets are not available to the passengers. There has, however, been a temporary shortage of printed card tickets for some destination stations at the following stations of the Northern Railway but Blank Paper Tickets are being issued in lieu thereof :—

Varanasi, Partapgarh, Misrauli, Raebareli, Sakteshgarh, Phaphund, Kosma, Mainpuri, Firozabad, Prempur, Rura, Etawah, Chakeri, Vindhya-chal, Khaga, Meja Road, Kurasti Kalan, Sirathu, Sarai Bhopat, Shikohabad, Kulwa, Hirangaon, Panki, Aligarh, Tindauli, Maitha, Pata, Hathras, Hathras Quillah, Jawaharpur Kamsen, Subedarganj.]

CONFERENCE OF COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS OF TRADE

148. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he attended the Commonwealth Trade Ministers' Conference held in London in June this year;

(b) if so what were the subjects discussed at the Conference; and

(c) the decisions taken at the Conference so far as these concerned India ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The discussions in the Conference dealt with the review of the development of intra-Commonwealth trade in the context of world trade; the progress of the Kennedy Round of Tariff negotiations;