

1'[STORES PURCHASED BY THE ZONAL RAILWAYS

* 165. SHRI V. M. CHORDIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total cost of stores purchased, other than those purchased through the D.G.S. and D., by the various zonal Railways during the years 1962-63 and 1963-64;

(b) the cost of the stores for which the rate contract of the D.G.S. and D. was there but which were purchased directly from the open market; and

(c) the amount paid in excess of the rates quoted by the D.G.S. and D. in each of the purchases ?]

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० राम सुभग सिंह) : (क) से (ग) सूचना मंगायी जा रही है और यथा समय सभा-पटल पर रख दी जायगी ।

t[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINTH) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.]

IMPORT AND MANUFACTURE OF STAINLESS STEEL

*166. SHRI ABID ALI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to State :

(a) what percentage of imported stainless steel is used for (i) industrial, (ii) medical and surgical, (iii) domestic utensils etc. and (iv) other purposes;

(b) whether Government propose to curtail import of stainless steel and stop the manufacture of utensils and other articles which can be manufactured from locally produced materials; and

(c) when the factory is likely to be installed to manufacture stainless steel in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY) : (a) Detailed information is not readily available. Information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Government do not have any proposal to stop the manufacture of utensils, but the present policy is not to approve further capacity in this line. Imports of stainless steel sheets suitable for manufacture of utensils are banned for general licensing. In order to meet the requirements of the existing industry to a very limited extent, import of some quantities of these sheets is arranged from time to time through barter deals entered into by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation. The imports of stainless steel sheets, other than those required for utensil making, for the manufacture of other articles are made in the normal course through licences issued to actual users on the recommendations of the sponsoring authorities out of the foreign exchange ceilings made available to them.

(c) The Alloy Steel Project at Durga-pur, is likely to start production of stainless steel by the middle of 1967. Two schemes in the private sector have also been licensed for the production of stainless steels. They are, however, in a very preliminary stage and it is premature to make any forecast about the possible date of going into production.

BROADGAUGING OF MIRAJ-GOA RAILWAY TRACK

167. SHRI D. B. DESAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey for broadgauging the Miraj-Goa railway track is complete; and

(b) if so, whether the work is to be undertaken in the Fourth Five Year Plan ?

t[] English translation,

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH) : (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Railways construction/conversion programme for the Fourth Plan is yet to be finalised in conjunction with the Planning Commission and other concerned Ministries. Only after the survey report and estimate are received and examined from all aspects with regard to the feasibility/viability of the scheme, can a final decision be taken regarding its inclusion in the next Plan.

MURDER OF WOMAN IN PATHANKOT EXPRESS

*L68. SHRI K. C. BAGHEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a woman was found murdered in the Pathankot Express on the 16th December, 1964;

(b) the number of such cases which occurred on the Western Railway during the year 1964; and

(c) what extra steps have been taken by the Railways to protect the women travellers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. A dead body of a young woman was recovered from a box left in a third class compartment of Pathankot Express after its arrival at Pathankot station.

(b) One.

(c) Prevention and detection of crime against person on railways and in railway premises is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police and State Government. Close co-operation is maintained with the Government Railway Police at all times for the control of crime and their attention is promptly drawn to any serious crime

that occurs and to any increase in criminal activities in any particular area or train for taking remedial measures.

Besides the elaborate safety measures introduced by the Railway Administrations for all passengers, the following five special steps have been taken particularly for lady passengers :—

- (i) Conductor Guards and T.T.Es have instructions to pay special attention to lady passengers particularly when travelling alone, and to ensure that safety devices in the compartments are in working order;
- (ii) Instructions have been issued that all night trains at starting stations should be checked by responsible officials with a view to examining that the upper class compartments, particularly those reserved for ladies, have nobody hidden within the lavatory or under the berths or within the folded upper berths and that this should be done particularly in case of trains scheduled to run over notorious sections;
- (iii) A new arrangement has recently been devised by which the pressing of a push button provided in ladies compartment will ring a bell in the Guard's lobby and the adjacent general compartment and will also switch on a red light outside the compartment to indicate that help is needed there at-once. This device is provided in the ladies compartments of a few important trains;
- (iv) Ladies compartments are so positioned that at halting stations, they are in the middle of the platforms under the eye of the Railway staff;
- (v) Ladies travelling alone in higher classes are allowed to take an attendant with a third class ticket with them during night time.