

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR : Sir, so far as the second part of the question is concerned, it is a matter of opinion. We think our doctors are pretty good and we are very well advanced in medicine. So far as the first part of the question is concerned, Sir, the Finance Minister had been ill, and it was rather important that he should not postpone his visit, that he should go at that time, and, therefore, the Government felt that it will be good for a doctor to go with him.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : May I know, Sir, if the Finance Minister had been ill, did he appear before any physician of repute in Delhi before proceeding abroad, and was it a medical board that examined him before his departure ?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR : Well, Sir, all the doctors whom we have deputed to look after hon Members and Ministers, they are competent physicians to the best of our knowledge, and the Finance Minister had been under the treatment of the accredited medical advisers.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : May I know, Sir, if the Finance Minister was advised not to travel by plane since he was ill, and if he travelled by plane who would have taken the risk of his life if something untoward happened in the plane ?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR : Well, Sir, the medical attendant who had accompanied him in the plane, he was there precisely for the contingency mentioned by the hon. Member.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Is this an answer ? I would put in another question

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, it is a matter of great urgency.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : What was the foreign exchange involved in this particular trip, and whether even the Prime Minister, when he went, ever took a doctor along with him, or was this the first instance for a Minister to take a doctor abroad ?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR : Sir, the foreign exchange component was Rs. 742 and, Sir, we had sent a doctor with the Prime Minister also.

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : Sir, I have known Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari for the last sixteen years that I have been here, and I know his health and, Sir, I admire at what great . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Why is he giving an explanation ?

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : You are not presiding, my dear friend. I am bringing it to the notice of the Chair.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I did not address the hon. Member either.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I can only give my ruling, if any, after I have heard him.

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : Sir, I admire the way in which he has been functioning in public life, and working for the Government at least for 15 or 16 hours daily with great physical distress and great physical anguish. I know his ailments; I know his troubles, and if in place of a mere Rs. 700 odd, even Rs. 7,000 had been spent, it would have been proper. We should not be ungrateful to our people who serve the country at great personal sacrifice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not want any clarification from the Health Minister. That was your own statement. I can pass on now to the other items.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

IMPORT LICENCES FOR COTTON WASTE SPINDLES

*717. SHRI ABDUL GHANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any import licences for cotton waste spindles were granted to private concerns in Punjab during the years 1963-

64, 1964-65 and so far in 1965, and if so, the names of the parties;

(b) whether the parties have installed the spindles and if so, when;

(c) how many such spindles are working in each concern at present; and

(d) whether Government have permitted any party to produce woollen shoddy yarn in place of cotton waste and if so, the names of the parties and since when permitted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) No import licences for cotton waste spindles were granted to any party in the Punjab during 1963-64. During 1964-65 and so far in 1965 import licences for cotton waste spindles have been granted to the following parties from the German Democratic Republic and Poland.

1. M/s Modi Trading Corporation, Punjab.
2. M/s Swastika Spinning Mills, Unit No. 1, Panipat.
3. M/s Modella Private Limited, Punjab Unit.
4. M/s Kharar Textiles Mills, Kharar.

(b) to (d) None of the above-mentioned parties has yet completed the installation of the spindles.

ATTEMPTED STOPPAGE OF TRAINS DURING INDO-PAK CONFLICT

*723. SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Indo-Pak conflict some miscreants tried to stop trains proceeding to Jabalpur and placed stones and bombs etc., on the Railway track; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) and (b) It was reported by the leverman of 'B' Cabin of Sihora Road Station on the Katni-Jabalpur Section on 11-9-1965, that at about 19-50 hrs. that day 3 masked persons asked him to raise the signal which he had lowered for admitting 34 Up Bilaspur-Indore Express. On his refusal, the miscreants placed a big boulder on the track. The leverman rushed to the spot to remove the obstacle, and while he was doing so the miscreants were alleged to have assaulted him and run away on seeing the light of the approaching train. The leverman, however, succeeded in removing the boulder and the train was passed safely. There was no case of a bomb being placed on the track on this Section.

INTERNATIONAL MARKET FOR MANGANESE ORE

*729. SHRI RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee on manganese ore has recommended measures to bring about fiscal and mechanical improvements to make it more competitive in the international market;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made; and

(c) which recommendations have been accepted by Government for implementation?

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

(b) and (c) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

One important recommendation in the Report is that, with a view to maximising exports of manganese ore, it would be desirable to canalise such exports through one or two central agencies which by means of carefully co-ordinated operations could obtain the best prices and terms for Indian