

quantity of high priced superior [ quality rice to certain countries primarily with a view to meet the requirements of Indians abroad; but no shipment has actually taken place after July 11, 1964.

(b) The State Trading Corporation has concluded contracts for the export of a total quantity of 8,385 tonnes valued at Rs. 94.48 lakhs since November, 1962 to U.K., Mauritius, Kuwait, Baharein, Aden, East Africa (Mombasa), Suva (Fiji), Ethiopia, Beirut, Iraq and North Rhodesia. 5,666 tonnes of rice have been exported over the period of one year and 9 months and S.T.C. has still to fulfil outstanding commitments for 3219 I tonnes.

#### SHAHDARA-SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY

207. SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Shahdara Saharanpur Light Railway is still with private firm; and

(b) if so, the reasons for which it has not been taken over by Government?

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

(b) Under the Agreement with the Shahdara-Saharanpur Light Railway Company, the Central Government have the option to purchase the line at intervals of every seven years. The question of purchase of this Railway was considered in 1962 when the last option fell due. The examination revealed that such a step would not be justified in the public interest, taking all aspects into consideration, including the financial aspects. The question will now be considered in 1969, when the next option falls due.

#### ESTIMATED EXPORTS

208. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be

pleased to state the estimated exports for the year 1964-65?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): It is difficult to give such estimates but broadly exports for the year 1964-65 are expected to be of the order of Rs. 830 to Rs. 840 crores.

#### REVIVAL OF SMALL-CAR PROJECT

209. SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to revive the small-car project; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the Government's decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY ENGINEERING IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI T. N. SINGH): (a) and (b)\* There has been no change in the decision of Government as stated in the House or the 10th August, 1962.

#### PRODUCTION OF STEAM ENGINES

210. SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to stop the production of steam engines after the Fourth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) and (b) While it is too early to take an exact and final decision, planning is proceeding on the basis that when necessary facilities are fully established for the manufacture of the more modern and efficient types of traction, viz. electric and diesel locomotives, which are required for handling the intense traffic of the trunk routes and also offer the maximum economy to the nation, production will increasingly concentrate on such diesel and