

STATEMENT

New prices agreed upon under the new arrangements with Telco for supplies of locomotives with effect from 1st June 1961, as also the present cost of a B.G. Steam Locomotive produced at C.L.W.

If by new prices is meant the prices agreed upon under the new arrangements with Telco for supplies of locomotives after the termination of the present agreement on 31st May, 1961, the answer is that the prices agreed are Rs. 3,80,750 per YG and Rs. 3,78,750 per YP loco covering the total supply of 325 Locos in the period 1st June 1961 to 31st March 1966. These prices are below the price of Rs. 3,80,917 per YG locomotive settled by the last arbitration award for the period 1959-60 covering the supply of 200 locomotives or an average annual supply of 100 locomotives, whereas the average annual supply by Telco in 1961-66 will be only 65 locomotives.

The present cost of a B.G. steam locomotive produced at Chittaranjan (including the element of interest on capital-at-charge and the dividend element on capital paid to General Revenues) is Rs. 4.60 lakhs per W.G. locomotive for an annual out-turn of 168 locomotives. For obvious reasons, any direct comparison between metre-gauge and broad-gauge prices is not possible.

CANCELLATION OF TRUNK CALLS DUE TO LACK OF RESPONSE FROM DELHI EXCHANGE

*69. SHRI BANSI LAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint to the effect that the operators of the Delhi Telephone Exchange do not respond for hours together to the calls of operators from other exchanges in respect of trunk calls; and if so, what steps Government propose to take in this connection;

(b) how many trunk calls from Bhilwani, Hissar, Sirsa and Rohtak were cancelled since April 1960 only because of not getting response from the Delhi Exchange; and

(c) what is the amount of loss incurred by Government due to the cancellation of such trunk calls?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN): (a) Such complaints do arise occasionally but are generally found to be due to failure of Trunk Lines resulting in calling signal NOT being received by the called exchange.

(b) There are many factors which account for trunk call cancellation and it is not practicable to analyse cancellations purely due to no response from called exchange.

(c) Does not arise.

EXPERT BODY ON GASTRO-ENTERITIS

*75. { SHRI P. RAMAMURTI:
DR. A. SUBBA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Delhi Medical Association has approached Government for the appointment of an expert body to determine the causes of the recent epidemic called "gastro-enteritis" in Northern India; and

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to appoint such a body?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

PROGRESS OF IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS FROM U.S.A.

*76. SHRI N. M. LINGAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the progress so far made in the import of the 17 million tons of foodgrains from the United States of America under the recently concluded P. L. 480 agreement?