

*70. { SHRI J. H. JOSHI:
SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations are going on between the Government of India and some foreign firms for the manufacture of electric locomotives in India; and

(b) what will be the estimated amount of economy which will be effected if the scheme is finalised and executed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY):

(a) and (b). Orders for manufacture and supply of 10 D.C. electric locomotives required urgently for the Central Railway have been placed on Chittaranjan Locomotive works. The electrical equipment for these locomotives will be supplied by the English Electric Co. U. K. Manufacture of vehicle part of the locomotive and assembly of electrical equipments will be carried out by the Chittaranjan Loco. Works.

The question of the extension of the previous agreement with North British Locomotive Co. for technical association for the manufacture of mechanical parts of electric locos is under consideration.

It is difficult to assess at this stage the saving that would be achieved in the manufacture of electric locos at C. L. W. The cost of indigenous production in the initial stages is likely to be higher as compared to the cost of a imported loco but it will come down gradually as production increases.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri J. H. Joshi.

SHRI J. H. JOSHI: May I know, Sir, what will be the annual outturn of this manufacture?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: We have programmes only for the manufacture of 10 D. C. locomotives. We have also now on hand a programme for the manufacture of 42 A. C. locomotives for which we had invited global tenders and the contracts are under consideration.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon. Minister in his reply stated that orders have been placed with the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works for the construction of 10 D. C. locomotives. Sir, according to the present position, the D. C. system is supposed to be out-of-date and the D. C. system in Calcutta is being revised and they are going in for the A. C. system. Then what is the point in having more locomotives of the D. C. type?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: There is the D. C. system in the Central Railway and there is the D. C. system on the Southern Railway also. We are not removing them away. On the other hand we are introducing the A. C. system on the South-Eastern Railway and parts of Eastern Railway. It is for these that we are trying to build up.

SHRI J. H. JOSHI: May I know, Sir, whether it is true that the steam locomotives manufactured by our railways come to about 1800 per year and the annual requirement for replacement is of the order of about 1200? So we are trying to find a market for the export of these steam locomotives. So, are we not going to add to their burdens by ordering the manufacture of this new type of locomotives?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Sir, we are now on the question of . . . What exactly was the point he was driving at?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.