

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh):** (a) and (b). The notion that textiles from Asian countries are from low-wage countries has affected exports of Indian textiles to some industrially developed countries of Western Europe to an extent, which, however, cannot be determined.

#### Accounts Department Examination

**2792. Shri Ram Charan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for candidates who have passed Appendix 2 Examination in the Railway Accounts Department, the substantive seniority is counted towards promotions and confirmation, whereas for those who pass Appendix 3 Examination, the year of passing the Examination is taken into account;

(b) the reasons for not giving enhanced rate of increments to the staff on passing the Appendix 2 Examination while it is admissible to those passing Appendix 3; and

(c) the reasons for delay in the promotion of staff who have qualified in the Appendix 2 Examination since 1959?

**The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha):** (a) Yes.

(b) The Appendix 2 Examination is a lower standard test which is designed to judge the elementary professional attainments of an Accounts Clerk and which is a pre-requisite for promotion of Grade II clerks to Grade I, whereas the Appendix 3 Examination is a higher professional test, the passing of which would, apart from qualifying a clerk for promotion to the Accountants' Grade, also indicate a superior professional standard which will be brought to bear on the discharge of his duties. Because of this latter consideration an incentive has been provided by way of enhanced rate of increments.

(c) The qualified staff can be promoted only to the extent vacancies are available. The examination is only a qualifying one passing of which does not confer any automatic right to promotion.

#### Demands of the Employees of HEC, Ranchi

**2793. Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a charter of demands was submitted to the Chairman, Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi by the Workers Union on the 17th May, 1967; and

(b) if so, the demands and the steps taken to meet these demands?

**The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 45 demands and these relate to service conditions, increase in pay and allowances, and welfare facilities.

An agreement with the workers' union was signed on 5th November, 1966 but an injunction has been issued by the Patna High Court staying implementation of the agreement. Most of the items in the Charter of Demands are adequately covered in the settlement of 5th November, 1966. Individual cases, are being discussed by the Labour Representatives of the different unions and action is being taken.

#### Import of Cotton

**2794. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum note/communication about cotton imports/sale