

- (2) Improve quality of silkworm races and evolving high yielding races for higher productivity;
- (3) Abolition of import duty on raw silk;
- (4) Maintenance of buffer stocks of imported and indigenous silk by the Central Silk Board for distribution to the manufacturer-exporters;
- (5) Reduction of airfreight on silk fabrics for export; and
- (6) Effectively publicise Indian silks in foreign markets.

The above proposals which were received by Government only recently are under consideration.

STATEMENT BY ISRAEL'S COMMERCE MINISTER

1937. SHRI ANBUCHEZHIAN :
SHRI DEIVEEKAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report that the Commerce Minister of Israel has stated that his Government can sell to India, fertilizer, insecticides and agricultural machinery;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has shown his Government's willingness to purchase iron, steel, rubber etc. from India; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) There are no special restrictions on trade with Israel and any specific offers from Israel can be considered by Indian parties concerned in the ordinary course.

STOPPAGE OF TRAIN AT SONAILI

1938. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a demand for a passenger stop at Sonaili Station in Katihar District;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend the passenger train running between Radhikapur and Barsoi to Katihar to facilitate the passengers of Sonaili ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). With effect from 20th February, 1968, 123 Up/124 Dn. Manihari-ghat-Katihar passenger trains have been extended to run to and from Radhikapur and stoppages have been provided at Sonaili station by these trains.

LIGHTING ARRANGEMENT IN FIRST CLASS COMPARTMENTS

1939. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the lighting arrangements in the First Class Compartments in the Indian Railways on many main lines are unsatisfactory; and

(b) if so, the action taken to improve the same in view of increased burglaries in trains ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) There have been some cases of deficiencies and defects in the lights in the first class compartments.

(b) A number of counter measures have been taken to overcome the difficulty of proper maintenance of train lighting, which are listed below :--

(i) Improvement in the standard of maintenance of train lighting equipments at terminal stations.

(ii) Inspection to ensure that the lights and fans and other amenities in the trains are in working order before the trains leave the starting stations.

(iii) Ensure that the lights, fans and other amenities are maintained in working order *en route* by Coach attendants who should attend to minor defects like replacement of bulbs, brushes, fuses etc.