

production and distribution of a number of essential commodities to check excess profits;

(b) how far the prices of grain, fertilizers, kerosene, diesel oil and other petroleum products have been pegged down, according to the decision which was made along with the decision to devalue the rupee; and

(c) the arrangements that have been made for larger imports of copra, palm, sun-flower and soyabean oil to make up the shortage of cooking mediums?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7498/66].

Cash Assistance Scheme for Exports

*641. Shri Yashpal Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have refused to extend the cash assistance scheme for the export of goods other than those that have already been notified by Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not extending this facility for other goods in view of the serious trade difficulties created by devaluation?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Announcement has already been made in regard to the items on which cash assistance is permissible.

Agricultural Exportable Commodities

*642. Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri K. N. Tiwary:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he informed the Export-Import Advisory Committee meeting held at Delhi on the 17th September, 1966 that Government propose to reduce the export duties on various agricultural exportable commodities;

(b) if so, whether any other advice was given to them; and

(c) to what extent that would help Indian agriculturists and exports?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Cost of Production of Diesel Locomotives at Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi

*643. Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Maheswar Naik:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of production of diesel locomotives at the Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi has gone up by more than 25 per cent as a result of devaluation;

(b) if so, whether this rise in cost has caused a drastic cut in diesel locomotives output and, if so, to what extent; and

(c) how the production after devaluation compares with that during the corresponding period last year?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subbag Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the 5 months since devaluation viz. June to October, the production was 17 locos as compared to 19 in the corresponding five months of last year. The lower out-turn this year was due to the shortage of axles and not devaluation. But for this, the out-turn during the former period would have been 25 locomotives.

Transportation of Foodgrains in Open Wagons

*644. Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: