

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Dr. M. M. Das:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge quantity of foodgrains was damaged during 1965-66 in transit from one part of the country to another;

(b) if so, whether any assessment of the loss of foodgrains thereby was made;

(c) whether the damage was caused due to the use of open wagons for carrying the foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the reasons for using open wagons?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways, (Shri Sham Nath):

(a) No, but some quantity of foodgrains was damaged.

(b) Yes, assessment was made in some individual cases but the total figures are not yet available.

(c) Damage was caused to some extent to foodgrains carried in open wagons, but damage was also caused to consignments carried in covered wagons.

(d) Normally BOX/open wagons covered with tarpaulins under escorts are used in block rakes for clearance of foodgrains only during fair weather. In the monsoon months of 1965-66 due to concentration of a large number of ships at Madras and again during the same period in 1966-67 due to very heavy and unforeseen imports of foodgrains, Railways have had to provide open wagons to some extent for carrying foodgrains from ports as it was not possible to provide additional covered wagons for such sudden and unexpectedly heavy movements. However, for this purpose BOX wagons have been provided with special fittings for covering them with tarpaulins in such a way as to slope outwards for water to drain off easily.

Production of Coffee

***645. Shri Maheswar Nalk:**
Shri Bishwanath Roy:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the special efforts being made to increase the production of coffee to an appreciable degree with a view to have larger export earnings; and

(b) whether Central help is extended to the States, where natural facilities for growth of coffee are available?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Increase in Coffee Production is being brought about by:

(i) extension of acreage under coffee;

(ii) intensive cultivation in the existing areas by the application of fertilizers and pesticides and by planting the high yielding and disease-resistant coffee seeds supplied to the planters by the Coffee Board;

(iii) grant of long-term loans to planters to enable them to undertake intensive cultivation; equipment and machinery required for this is also supplied by the Coffee Board on a hire-purchase basis.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Nanakchand Shadiram

***646. Shri Kishen Pattanayak:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the firm of Nanakchand Shadiram (Government controlled stockists and Importers of Steel with offices at Delhi, Madras, Kanpur, Calcutta) has been prosecuted and convicted for violation of some laws in force;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite this the associates/partners of

this firm have been allowed to float a public limited company;

(c) whether the Madras Government have given land to this company at a concessional rate;

(d) whether the financial institutions and other departments of Central and State Governments have given various kinds of assistance to this company;

(e) whether the company has commenced production and whether any construction work has been done; and

(f) if not, the action taken to protect the public and the State interests?

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) The firm of Nanakchand Shadiram was convicted by the Third Presidency Magistrate, Madras, in 1964, for submission of false returns under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act read with the provisions of the Iron and Steel Control Order and Indian Penal Code. They have filed an appeal before the High Court which is pending.

(b) M/s. Madras Tube Company, Madras, promoted by a partner of the firm of Nanakchand Shadiram was incorporated in 1961 i.e. long before this conviction.

(c) No, Sir. Land to the extent of 162.59 acres was assigned at market value.

(d) M/s. Madras Tubes Co. have been given licence in 1961 under Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951, for the manufacture of 48,000 tons of ERW tubes per annum. For this project, necessary import licence for capital equipments, approval for entering into collaboration with a foreign firm and consent for the issue of capital have been given. Certain financial institutions like Madras Industrial Investment Corporation, Industrial Finance Corporation etc. have approved

their scheme for under-writing the shares that are to be issued.

(e) The factory has not yet started the construction work and hence the question of production does not arise.

(f) As mentioned in part (b) above, no irregularities have been committed by M/s. Madras Tube Company and hence the question of protection of interest of those participating in its activities does not arise.

Indian Hotels in Pakistan

***648. Shri R. S. Pandey:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of hotels run by the Indians in Pakistan which were taken over by the Government of Pakistan during the last year's conflict between the two countries; and

(b) whether Government have taken any initiative to get the assets of Indian hoteliers which were confiscated by Pakistan released?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) According to available information the number of Hotels taken over by the Government of Pakistan is six. The names of the Hotels are as follows:—

- (i) Oberoi Cecil, Murree.
- (ii) Oberoi Flashmans, Rawalpindi.
- (iii) Oberoi Deans, Peshawar.
- (iv) Oberoi Falettis, Lahore.
- (v) Bristol Hotel, Civil Lines, Karachi.
- (vi) Palace Hotel, Karachi.

(b) Yes, Sir, Government of India have repeatedly proposed to the Government of Pakistan the restitution in their entirety of all properties and assets taken over by either side during the conflict in September 1965. There has been no response from the Government of Pakistan.