

Foreign Exchange allocation for import of Capital Goods

*649. **Shri Basumatari:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to make a special foreign exchange allocation for the import of capital goods required by export industries; and

(b) if so, whether Government had also assumed powers to direct indigenous manufacturers of raw materials to supply the requirement of the exporters on a priority basis?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Attention of the Hon. Member is invited to paragraph 5 of the Statement made in this House on August 16, 1966. The details of the arrangements are being worked out and will be announced in the near future.

(b) A scheme has been issued providing for the prompt supplies of certain indigenous raw materials (most of which have already been declared as "essential commodities" under the Essential Commodities Act, 1966) to manufacturing units in the engineering, chemicals, plastics, processed foods and garments industry, whether such units are directly engaged in export or sell to any other person or firm for export.

Accidents on South-Central and North-East Frontier Railways

*650. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the investigations into the causes of the three recent major railway accidents on the South-Central and North-East Frontier Railways;

(b) whether it is proper before the investigations are completed, for persons in authority to issue public statements ascribing such accidents to 'sabotage' or 'Human failure'; and

(c) the reasons for arresting certain Railway staff prior to final judgement of the investigating bodies?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Presumably the question refers to the train accidents which occurred on 10th October 1966 and 12th October, 1966, on the South Central Railway and on 20th October 1966 on the Northeast Frontier Railway. All these three accidents were enquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety and their final reports have not yet been received. However, according to the Provisional findings of the Commission of Railway Safety, while the accident which occurred on 12th October 1966 was due to the failure of railway staff, the other two were attributable to acts of sabotage.

(b) Where the Commission of Railway Safety hold an enquiry, they submit a brief preliminary narrative report and also give their provisional findings. This report is factual and does not contain any reference to persons implicated. Based on the provisional finding, sometimes Press Notes are issued for the information of the public in regard to the cause of the accident.

(c) This matter falls within the purview of the State Governments.

Manufacture of DT-14B Russian Tractors in the Country

*651. **Shri Balgovind Verma:**
Shri Braj Bihari Mehrotra:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Ram Swarup:
Shri Chandak:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Sarjoo Pandey:
Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:
Shri Utiya:
Shri Prabhat Kar:

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme for the manufacture of DT-14B Russian tractor was submitted to Government in 1964;

(b) if so, why no decision has been taken when this Horse-Power tractor