

(c) Import figures for conveyer belting during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Value
1963-64	Rs. 33.85 lakhs
1964-65	Rs. 26.27 lakhs
1965-66	Rs. 12.92 lakhs

#### Recovery of Export Earnings from Pakistan

\*657. **Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**  
**Dr. M. M. Das:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 703 on the 26th August, 1966 and state:

(a) the steps since taken to recover the arrears of export earnings from Pakistan; and

(b) the outcome thereof?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). It is not possible at this stage to take any further steps to recover the balance of arrears of export earnings from Pakistan since trade with that country has still not been resumed.

#### Surgical Equipments

\*658. **Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Health and Family Planning in her inaugural speech while opening the mobile educational seminar on surgery sponsored by the Pan-Pacific Surgical Association opined that India is facing acute dearth of upto-date surgical equipments to the detriment of the interest of the people in the country;

(b) if so, how the shortage is going to be met; and

(c) whether indigenous industries with or without foreign collaboration for the manufacture of these equipments are being contemplated to meet the shortage?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the requirements of medical profession for specialised surgical instruments which are not at present available, the present policy is that any medical practitioner can import surgical instruments for a value of Rs. 500 and any Medical Institution can import up to a value of Rs. 1000.

(c) A Surgical Instruments Plant has been set up at Madras in the Public Sector with Russian assistance. The project was commissioned to operate from 1st September, 1965. A number of surgical instruments, mostly common user items, are now under production. Three units in the private sector have been granted provisional registration for manufacture of various types of surgical instruments. It is expected that major portion of the requirements of surgical instruments would be manufactured in the country by the end of the current plan period. Some imports may, however, continue particularly of highly specialised and sophisticated types for which there may not be large demand in numbers to undertake the economic manufacture thereof?

#### European Common Market

\*659. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that British Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Wilson is now keen on U.K.'s entry into the E.C.M.; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for the protection of Indian export trade in the event of this proposal materialising?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have seen reports of the statement made by British Prime Minister, Mr. Wilson, that the British Government have decided to make a new high level approach to the EEC to see whether conditions exist—or do not exist—for fruitful negotiations, and the basis on which such negotiations could take place.

(b) The purpose of such an approach is to establish whether it appears likely that essential British and Commonwealth interests could be safeguarded if Britain joins the EEC. The Government of India are keeping themselves informed of developments in the matter and will take into account the course of consultations with Commonwealth Governments which the British Government would be undertaking. The precise nature and the extent of the effects on India's foreign trade will obviously depend on the terms and conditions of Britain's accession to the ECM and the safeguards that would be provided to the trade interests of other Commonwealth countries.

#### Tea Plantations in Kangra

\*660. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Kangra Tea Planters Supply and Marketing Industrial Cooperative Society Ltd. has represented to Government that Kangra Valley teas be exempted from the purview of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, till such time as, after proper analysis, a separate standard is fixed for those teas;

(b) whether the said representation has been considered; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Separate standards cannot be prescribed in different areas because it will not be possible to identify the garden of origin of the tea at the time it reaches the consumer. The problem is, therefore, of finding a suitable specification for all teas grown in India including those in Kangra, keeping in view the reputation which Indian tea has earned for its quality. The matter is being considered by the Central Committee of Food Standards.

#### Halt at Telwa Bazar on Eastern Railway

2877. **Shri Lakhan Das:**  
**Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a fresh representation about having a halt at Telwa Bazar, near Simultala, Eastern Railway (Main Line) on at least an experimental basis; and

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

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

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Republic Forge

2878. **Shri Madhu Limaye:** Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Republic Forge is a Teja concern or that he is associated with it;

(b) whether any irregularities/malpractices in the working of this company have come to light recently;

(c) if so, their nature; and

(d) the remedial action, if any, planned to protect the public interests; including the interests of the shareholders?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya):** (a) Dr. Dharma Teja was associated with this Company as Chairman from 20-4-63 to 3-4-66.

(b) and (c). Yes. The irregularities reported relate to the allotment of some shares (i) before receipt of the stipulated payments and (ii) without the prior permission of the Reserve Bank of India as required under the Foreign Exchange Regulations.

(d) No capital of this company has been issued to the public so far. It is understood that the company is pre-