

(b) if so, the main observations made and decisions taken at the meeting; and

(c) the steps taken in the light thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) The Automobile Division of the Directorate General of Technical Development had called a meeting of the Automobile and Ancillary manufacturers with Government on the 4th and 5th October, 1966 to assess the progress made by individual units in indigenisation, import substitution, Standardisation, and ancillary development.

(b) The various components which were still being imported by the vehicle manufacturers were reviewed in detail with a view to expediting the process of import substitution to the fullest extent possible.

Both the vehicle and ancillary manufacturers were asked to standardise the components to the utmost extent practicable without prejudice to quality and performance, to accelerate the development of manufacturers of the ancillaries required and to expedite the indigenisation of the vehicles with a view to reduce the foreign exchange expenditure on the import of components/raw materials.

The manufacturers' attention was drawn to the fact that complaints were being received about the quality of vehicles and it was brought home to them that they should assume full responsibility for putting in the market vehicles of acceptable standards which should cover items of their own manufacture as well as bought-out ancillary items. The need to stabilise the selling prices of their vehicles was also impressed upon them.

The importance of the manufacturers fostering more useful and cordial dealer/customer relations and aftersale service was emphasised.

(c) Necessary follow up action for early implementation of the various

decisions taken has been initiated by the Directorate General of Technical Development.

Loan From Export Import Bank, Washington

*540. **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Maurya:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States Export Import Bank of Washington has authorised a \$12,750,000 loan to the Government of India to finance purchases in the United States of diesel locomotive components for assembly at the Banaras Diesel Locomotive Works;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) how it is proposed to be utilised; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to manufacture these locomotive components indigenously?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The loan bears interest at 6 per cent per annum and is repayable in 20 semi-annual instalments, commencing on September 15, 1968. Commitment fee of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum from the date of authorisation of the loan is also payable on the amount of the loan undischursed.

(c) The loan is proposed to be utilised for covering the foreign exchange cost of acquisition from the United States of America, of components and materials that are not yet available indigenously for the manufacture of diesel locomotives at the Varanasi Works during 1967/68 and related technical services.

(d) Apart from a number of items that are being taken up for manufacture in the Works itself according to a phased programme, steps have also been taken to locate and develop indigenous capacity for the manufacture of a number of items both in private and public sector undertakings and in many cases educational orders have also been placed.

Import of Newsprint

2344. **Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**
Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:

Will the Minister of **Commerce** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the new agreement with Japan, Government propose to import more newsprint which could be supplied at a cheaper price to the consumers; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Representation from Licensed Porters/Labourers Sahayak Samiti Ltd.

2345. **Shri Lakhan Das:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Manager, Eastern Railway has received any new representation from the **Kiul Junction Licenced Porters/Labourers Sahayak Samiti, Ltd.** for handling the parcel contract;

(b) if so, when does the Railway Administration intend to award the parcel handling contract to the above named Co-operative Society; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in giving this contract to the above Cooperative Society?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The financial and other aspects of the Society's request are

under examination and a decision will be taken as early as possible.

Railway Employees at Kiul

2346. **Shri Lakhan Das:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Administration is aware of the new difficulties which the Railway employees at Kiul and such other technically non-urban areas are facing due to lack of adequate foodgrain supplies to fair price shops in these areas; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to mitigate their hardships?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):

(a) Yes.

(b) Bihar State Government Authorities have been contacted by the Eastern Railway Administration at the highest level who have assured better supply.

Increase in Transshipment Capacity at various Points North/South of Ganga in Bihar and West Bengal

2347. **Shri Lakhan Das:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any study of the transshipment problems at Barauni, Bhagalpur, Garahara, Farakka and Monghyr;

(b) whether there is a proposal to develop Samastipur as a Metre Gauge transshipment point for traffic flowing towards the North-West, and expand and allocate the Barauni capacity for traffic flowing towards the North-East; and

(c) if not, what other alternative schemes are being evolved to increase the transshipment capacity at various Points North/South of Ganga in Bihar