

The Deputy Minister of Railway (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 24.]

#### Canadian Aid for Fisheries Development

\*739. Shri Subbiah Ambalam: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposed Canadian aid for the fisheries development project at Tuticorin in Madras State fell through;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are negotiating with other countries like Japan for such aid?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Canadian Department of Fisheries had limited resources which were fully occupied with development of fisheries in their own country.

(c) No, Sir.

#### Gir Lions

\*742. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 173 on the 22nd February, 1956 and state:

(a) what steps have been taken to preserve the gir lions;

(b) how far they have been effective; and

(c) whether the danger of their extinction has been averted?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain): (a) (i) The Gir Forest has been declared a sanctuary and is closed for hunting throughout the year. (ii) A second home for the Gir lion has been found in the Chandraprabha sanctuary near Banaras in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The lion population is reported to be on the increase.

(c) Yes, Sir.

#### Turmeric Exports

\*743. Kumari M. Vedakumari: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the condition of turmeric exports to Pakistan from Andhra as the price has fallen abnormally and farmers have been affected badly?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain): The export of turmeric is allowed freely. No restrictions or conditions have been imposed. Data regarding exports of this commodity from different States in India to Pakistan and to other countries is not compiled. The figures of export from India to Pakistan and other countries are as follows:—

	(In tons)		
	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57*
To Pakistan	1096	1204	2231
To all destinations	6838	7556	10407

\*Figures for 1956-57 are for nine months only.

The exports, particularly in 1956-57, are on the increase. The fall in price is due partly to larger production of the crop within the country and partly to a fall in the turmeric prices in world markets.

#### Railway Mail Service Division

\*744. Shri B. C. Mullaik: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the criteria followed for grading of Railway Mail Service Division as Class I and Class II?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): R.M.S. Divisions having 250 or more operative sorters (including staff sanctioned to provide weekly offs to the staff) are graded as Class I; the rest as Class II.

#### Pakistan Opted Railway Employees

\*745. Shri Balkrishna Wasnik: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a number of Railway employees who