

- (iv) The State Governments and the Indian Central Arecanut Committee are providing proper market intelligence regarding prices, arrivals and disposals of arecanut, its import and export, demand and supply etc. to guide the areca growers in the efficient disposal of their produce.

Railway Accidents

989. { Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:
Shri Mantri:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many railway accidents took place in December, 1962 and January, 1963 so far; and

(b) how many people were killed and injured?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) The number of accidents in the categories of Collisions, Derailments, Level Crossing Accidents and Fires in Trains on Indian Government Railways for the period from 1st December, 1962 to 7th January, 1963 was 214.

(b) The number of persons killed and injured in these accidents was 45 and 140, respectively. This includes the figures of 37 killed and 86 injured in the accident at Umeshnagar which took place on 4th January, 1963.

Foreign participation in Shipping Industry

990. { Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:
Shri Mantri:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to increase the foreign participation share in shipping industry upto 40 per cent; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The matter is under examination.

(b) Does not arise.

Unloading Hours

991. Shri D. J. Nalk: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether reduction of free unloading hours from five to three has been effected in all sections of Western Railway?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): Reduction of free time for unloading from five working hours to three working hours has been effected at certain stations only on the Western Railway.

Import of Liquor

992. { Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Mantri:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that total ban on the import of foreign liquor is likely to hamper tourist trade in India; and

(b) if so, the steps to be taken to protect tourist trade?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). It is too early to say whether the total ban on the import of foreign liquor is likely to hamper tourist traffic to India. Hitherto under the Tourist Promotion Scheme, the requirements of the imported liquor, other essential equipment and provisions which have no suitable indigenous equivalents, of our Western Style Hotels borne on the approved list of the Department of Tourism used to be met from a quota of foreign exchange earmarked by the Ministry of Finance (Department of