

the broad and metre gauges of Northern Railway;

(b) reasons for the variations; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the position particularly on metre gauge section?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) The incidence of accidents per million train kilometres is higher on the Metre gauge than on the Broad gauge.

(b) Varying standards of track and equipment and operating conditions on the two gauges are mainly responsible for these variations.

(c) All possible steps, which include *inter alia* strengthening of track, proper maintenance of locomotives and rolling stock, effective train examination, better training of staff and rousing of greater safety consciousness amongst staff through safety propaganda and man-to-man contact, are being taken by the Railway Administration to improve the position on the Metre gauge.

Aurangabad Textile Mills Ltd.

459. Shri D. D. Mantri: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Aurangabad Textile Mills Ltd., Aurangabad (Maharashtra State) is closed these days;

(b) whether any suggestion or action has been recommended by the State of Maharashtra in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government are looking into the matter in consultation with the Textile Commissioner.

Hindustan Machine Tools

460. Shri E. Madhusudan Rao: Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to manufacture time pieces by the Hindustan Machine Tools in the near future; and

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

The Minister of Heavy Engineering in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Manufacture of watches by H.M.T.

461. Shri E. Madhusudan Rao: Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of wrist watches so far manufactured and sold by H.M.T. in the country;

(b) whether there has been of late any set back in the production of watches; and

(c) if so, the reason therefor?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh): (a) Total production upto 30th August, 1964 was 2,39,403 watches out of which 2,32,332 were sold.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Tea

462. Shri Biren Dutta: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of tea lifted by air from Tripura during 1961-62;

(b) the rate of freight charged for such air lifting;

(c) whether any subsidy has been asked for by the tea gardens; and

(d) if so, whether Government have recommended any subsidy to the Indian Air Lines Corporation?