

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) 24,201 quintals approximately.

(b) Teas are mainly booked from Agartala and Kailashahar to Calcutta. Freight rates ruling in 1961-62 were as follows:—

Agartala to Calcutta—Rs. 18.00 per quintal.

Kailashahar to Calcutta—Rs. 29.00 per quintal.

(c) Under the transport subsidy scheme, introduced with effect from 13-10-1959, a subsidy at the rate of Rs. 9.86 per quintal is granted to tea gardens by the Tea Board for transport of tea from Tripura by air. A sum of Rs. 4,46,310/- was paid under the transport subsidy scheme by the Board during the year 1961-62.

(d) No, Sir.

### Third Class Railway Coaches in Kangra Valley

463. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no fans and racks for keeping articles exist in the III Class coaches on the narrow gauge section of the Kangra Valley Railway; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to provide these amenities on that section?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). Out of 46 third class coaches running on this section, 35 are already provided with fans. The remaining 11 are overaged and are being progressively replaced by newly built coaches fitted with fans.

It is not possible to provide upper bunks in narrow gauge III class

coaches due to the limited size of these carriages. Light luggage racks are, however provided for accommodating light luggage inside the compartments.

### Small Scale Industries

464. { Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:  
Shri E. S. Pandey:  
Shri Ukey:

Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cut of 22 per cent in the allocation of foreign exchange for import of steel for small scale industries during the period October, 1962—March, 1963 and April—September, 1963 was applied uniformly to all the States;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the basis for not giving uniform increase during the period October, 1963—March, 1964, when the total ceiling was raised by 14.3 per cent?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) and (b). The allotment for imported steel for small scale industries for the period October, 1962—March, 1963 consisted of (a) Rs. 250 lakhs free foreign exchange and (b) Rs. 100 lakhs exchange for imports from Rupee area countries. The free foreign exchange of Rs. 250 lakhs was distributed amongst the State Governments pro rata on the basis of the allocation during the previous half year. The latter Rs. 100 lakhs was given to States other than Assam, Kerala, Orissa, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Pondicherry, Tripura and Goa. The reason for making no allotment to these States was that it was felt that small scale units in these comparatively backward states would find it difficult to negotiate direct

imports from the Rupee area. However, representations were received from these States in the matter and the foreign exchange made available for the period April—September, 1963 was distributed amongst all the States.

(c) The increased allocation of foreign exchange during October, 1963—March, 1964 was distributed proportionately among all the States except for very minor adjustments in the quotas of individual States in order to give an increased allotment to Himachal Pradesh.

#### Train Collision at Baudpur Station

465. Shri Gokulananda Mohanty: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2153 on the 14th April, 1964 and state:

(a) whether the report of the Additional Commissioner for Railway Safety detailing the responsibility for the train collision at Baudpur station on the S.E. Railway has since been received; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhas Singh): (a) and (b). The enquiry report into the accident has not yet been finalised.

#### Disposal of prospecting licence mining lease applications

466. Shri H. C. Soy: Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications to the State Government automatically cease to be effective on the lapse of nine months of filing the petitions by the prospective lessees of mines; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that similarly large number of petitions

specially from Bihar are lying with the Central Government for extension of prospecting lease periods for a long time?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). Rules 11 and 24 of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 prescribe time-limits (9 months) within which an application for grant of prospecting licence/mining lease should be disposed of by the State Government. If it is not so disposed of, the application shall be deemed to have been rejected. If the party so chooses, it can come in revision to the Central Government after the expiry of the prescribed period from the date of application. At the same time, the State Government can also seek extension of the time-limit in respect of such application which they propose to grant. The Central Government consider such proposals of the State Governments on merits and, wherever necessary, grant extension of time-limit in *suo moto* revision under section 30 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. At present, only five cases of this nature from the Government of Bihar are pending with the Central Government mainly because the applicants have also filed revision applications under rule 54 of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, which are under quasi-judicial examination of the Central Government and will be decided by the Tribunal constituted for the purpose. All these applications were received by the Central Government during the current year, 1964.