(c) the steps Government are taking to accelerate the trend further?

Written Answers

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). Firm figures for the exports during the first quarter of 1967-68 i.e. April to June, 1967, are not yet available. A comparative statement will be laid on the Table of the House when these are finalised.

(c) Steps are being taken to increase exports by encouraging an increase in production of exportable products. Main features of necessary assistance are: cash assistance for certain selected export products, import replenishment under the new import policy for registered exporters, priority allotment of scarce indigenous raw materials through "Green Form" supply of iron and steel at international prices to fabricators of engineering goods for export, and special allocation of foreign exchange for import of capital goods by export-oriented industries. Further measures proposed include inter alia, reduction/ readjustment of export duties in some cases, restraint on domestic consumpthrough levy/adjustment of tion duties and more intensive excise marketing operations.

Export of Tea

7972. Shri S. S. Kothari: Shri Sri Chand Goel:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a considerable gap in the prices realised by the Indian tea exporters and those paid by the consumers in U.K. and other foreign countries;
- (b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a Tea Marketing Corporation which would blend, export and market the tea in foreign countries in bulk and in packets; and
- (c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure better price realisation of tea exported?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) It is a fact that there is a considerable gap between the wholesale price of bulk teas exported from India and the retail prices of blended teas actually paid by consumers in the U.K. or other foreign countries. A substantial part of this difference is obviously due to costs of blending teas of different qualities and from different countries of origin, distribution, packing, advertising and other retailing expenses as well as the import duties or other consumption taxes levied in the respective countries.

(b) and (c). While Government are naturally interested in developing to the extent practicable, the export of teas in the form of blended and packed teas, the setting up of a Tea Marketing Corporation or measures designed to secure a higher price realisation for our teas exported, would require a careful examination. It is with this end in view that the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade had organised a Tea Seminar at Calcutta and the various proposals emanating as a result of these discussions, are under Government's consideration.

Assault on Ticket Collectors at Mathura Station

7973. Shri Bal Raj Madhok:
Shri A. B. Vajpayee:
Shri Yajna Datt Sharma:
Shri Beni Shanker Sharma:
Shri R. S. Vidyarthi:
Shri Suraj Bhan:
Shri N. S. Sharma:
Shri J. B. Singh:
Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:
Shri George Fernandes:
Shri J. H. Patel:
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Ticket Collectors were assaulted on the 29th May, 1967 at Mathura Junction when they objected to illegal hawking and selling of eatables by the unauthorised catering vendors; (b) whether it is also a fact that the Railway Police did not come to the rescue of the station staff and the Flying Squad of the city police had to be called; and

Written

Answers

(c) if so, the steps to be taken to stop illegal hawking at the station and to offer protection to the railway station staff?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes. One Ticket Collector was assaulted near his quarter outside the station building, as he had earlier objected to selling of cold drinks by unauthorised vendors on the platform.

- (b) Before anyone became aware of the incident, the unauthorised vendors had assaulted the Ticket Collector and ran away. Subsequently. when the Ticket Collector was brought to the station, a complaint was lodged by the Asstt. Station Master with Government Railway Police, Mathura Junction, who referred the case to the District Police having jurisdiction. A case under Section 147/332/323 IPC has been registered and the Distt. Police have arrested one unauthorised vendor and three outsiders. The case is under police investigation.
- (c) Special squads to combat the nuisance of unauthorised hawkers and beggars have been formed on the Central Railway. These squads conduct frequent regular and surprise checks with the assistance of Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force staff.

Instructions also exist that the Government Railway Police should render protection to the Ticket Checking staff wherever deemed necessary.

Capital Employed in the Hindustan Steel, Ltd.

7974. Shri C. C. Desai: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of capital

- employed in the Hindustan Steel Limited:
- (b) the total sales in 1965 and 1966;
- (c) the ratio between capital employed and sales per unit of 100 rupees during the aforesaid period; and
- (d) the comparable figures of (i) Tata Iron and Steel and (ii) Indian Iron and Steel?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reverse side of Railway Tickets

7975. Shri Yashpal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering a proposal to sell out the reverse side of tickets to advertisers;
 and
 - (b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Indian Railways are selling out back space of Railway tickets to advertisers.

(b) Does not arise.

Charging of Registration Fees from Railway Porters

7976. Shri Yashpal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) how much money is realised from porters as registration fees at the Delhi, Madras, Calcutta and Bombay stations; and
- (b) what percentage of it is being spent on their welfare.

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) No registration fee as such is realised from licensed porters. Reference is perhaps to licence fee charged from licensed porters,