

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Trials were conducted recently by the Research, Designs and Standards Organisation of the Railways on the section between Palwal and Ballabgarh on the Down Line between Mathura and Delhi with a diesel WDM4 locomotive hauling one ICF (all-coil) coach and an oscillograph car at speeds upto a maximum of 136 kmph.

(b) Preliminary analysis of the results indicate that the trial runs were satisfactory upto the maximum tested speed. Detailed analysis of the trials is in progress.

Kannan Devan Hill Produce Company Ltd.

**8058. Shri Viswanatha Menon:
Shri K. Anirudhan:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kannan Devan Hill Produce Company Ltd., Munnar is negotiating to sell its estates;

(b) whether Government are aware that the KDHP is negotiating with the Raja of Poonjar to purchase the Janmam right of the estates property and as to straighten the documents for the sale of the Estates; and

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to nationalise this Foreign Company without paying compensation?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). Government have no information on the subject.

(c) Does not arise.

Grant of Merit Certificates for Best Maintained Gangs by P.W.Is. and A.P.W.Is. on the Northern Railway

8059. Shri Ishaq Sambhal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cash awards and merit certificates are issued to the best maintained gangs of Permanent Way Inspectors on the Northern Railway; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not awarding the merit certificates to P.W.Is. and A.P.W.Is. in the Lucknow Division of the Northern Railway in 1966-67?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes. Cash awards are given to the best maintained gangs, and merit certificates are issued to the Permanent Way Inspectors/Assistant Permanent Way Inspectors.

(b) On the Lucknow Division, cash awards to the gangs have already been given during the last Railway Week. Merit certificates to the deserving Permanent Way Inspectors, and Assistant Permanent Way Inspectors, are under issue.

Export of Ivory

**8060. Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:
Shri Ganesh Ghosh:
Shri K. P. Singh Deo:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the present cost of a killo of ivory and its cost five years ago;

(b) the total value of ivory articles exported during 1966;

(c) whether Government have any arrangement for pre-export quality control; and

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that articles made out of camel bone are being exported as ivory goods and vice-versa?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce (Shri Shaif Qureshi): (a) The present market price of ivory varies from Rs. 135 to Rs. 200 per kilo as against Rs. 50 to Rs. 80 per kilo, five years ago.