

- (3) Satna (Madhya Pradesh)
 (4) Banjari (Bihar)

III. Rs. 96 per tonne (unpacked) to the following high cost units:

- (1) Cement Nagar (Andhra Pradesh).
 (2) Ranavav (Gujarat)
 (3) Tulukapatti (Madras)
 (4) Japla (Bihar)
 (5) Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh).
 (6) Dalmia Dabri (Haryana)
 (7) Ammasandra (Mysore)
 (8) Sankaridrug (Madras)
 (9) Jamul (Madhya Pradesh)
 (10) Porbandar (Gujarat)
 (11) New Units/expansions.

(b) The current packing charges, fixed in consultation with Government, are Rs. 19.50 per tonne of cement (i.e. for 20 new as well as serviceable second hand D.W. Heavy Cees jute bags in the ratio of 2:1).

(c) This will vary from time to time depending on the prevailing market quotations for jute bags and from producer to producer depending on the arrangements each individual producer may have made with the sellers of jute bags.

(d) The Tariff Commission examined the costs of cement production last in 1961 and reported on the fair prices payable to the cement producers. The packing charges are also fixed every quarter, as recommended by the Tariff Commission, on the basis of the average of the daily quotations for jute bags over a period of nine months preceding each quarter.

Over-Bridge at Kalol Station

3536. Shri D. E. Parmar:
 Shri S. M. Solanki:
 Shri Bhanuchandra J. Amin:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for an over-bridge at the southern crossing at Kalol (M.G.) station yard on

the Western Railway to give relief to about eight thousand people residing on the other side of the Railway station;

(b) if so, when the proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Foonacha): (a) Yes, there is a proposal from Kalol Municipality for construction of a foot-overbridge across the railway lines at the southern end of Kalol Station, for the exclusive use of the pedestrians in the area.

(b) Under the rules, the costs of such a facility, the need for which has arisen after the railway line was opened to traffic and as a result of subsequent developments in the area, are required to be borne by the authority requiring the facility.

Accordingly the Railway has already asked the Municipality to agree to bear the cost of the proposed foot-overbridge and to deposit the necessary fees with the Railways for preparation of plans and estimates. Response from the Municipality is however still pending.

(c) Does not arise.

Over-Bridges at Gir-dharnagar and Asarwa Railway Crossings

3537. Shri D. E. Parmar:
 Shri S. M. Solanki:
 Shri Bhanuchandra J. Amin:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals for the construction of over-bridges or putting up any other device at Gir-dharnagar and Asarwa railway crossings on the Ahmedabad-Mehsana and Ahmedabad-Prantij Sections respectively of the Western Railway in Ahmedabad city to give relief to the public who have to wait for a considerable time;

(b) if so, when these proposals are likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). Gir-dharnagar level crossing at Km. 497|7-8 between Ahmedabad and Sabar-mati Stations has already been provided with power operated lifting type gates and a similar arrangement is also expected to be brought into use during the current year on the Asarwa level crossing No. 1 at Km. 0|9-10 between Ahmedabad-Asarwa Stations.

These improved gates will reduce the detention to road traffic at these two level crossings considerably.

There are no proposals so far for replacement of these two level crossings by Road over|underbridges. There is, however, a proposal from Ahmedabad Municipality for construction of a road overbridge in replacement of level crossing No. 2 beyond Asarwa Station. The proposal is still in the preliminary stages of correspondence with Municipality for their acceptance of terms and conditions.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortage of Polyester Fibre

3538. Shri N. K. Somani: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of man made fibre especially polyester, if so, whether the prices in the open market have shot up; and

(b) whether Government have plans for a more equitable distribution of this and other fibres in relation to the cotton mills' installed capacity to manufacture fabrics for export?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Yes, Sir. As the manufacturer of polyester fibre sells the entire production to actual users; prices shooting up in the open market would not arise.

(b) No, Sir. As the number of consumers of manmade fibre are very large, and some of these consumers particularly for fibres other than polyester are very small in size, it would not be practicable for Government to distribute these fibres.

The polyester fibre manufacturing unit has drawn up a scheme which is under consideration to supply a portion of their production to exporters at concessional price.

Handloom Industry in Manipur

3539. Shri M. Meghachandra: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 859 on the 7th April, 1967 and state:

(a) whether a serious crisis which is hitting the handloom industry in the country has also hit the industry in the Union Territory of Manipur;

(b) if so, how many looms and weavers have been affected;

(c) whether Government of Manipur have requested for facilities to open Emporia for the handloom products and handicrafts in some important State capitals and Delhi; and

(d) how many sale emporia have been opened by the Government of Manipur outside Manipur?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shaif Qureshi):

(a) and (b). The Government of Manipur informed us in April 1967 that there is no crisis in the handloom industry in that Territory. Prices of yarn, dyes and chemicals had risen by 10 to 12½ per cent. The Government of Manipur has been asked to furnish the latest information which will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.