

**Export of Footwear during Fourth Plan**

3562. Shri R. Barua: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Footwear Export Committee recommended the establishment of five mechanised plants to manufacture quality goods at competitive price to cater to the needs of sophisticated markets;

(b) if so, whether concrete steps have been taken in this direction; and

(c) whether in the Fourth Plan period there is going to be a rise in footwear export and if so how it would compare with the world trade in footwear in the context of our having the biggest cattle population?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The estimated world trade in footwear is of the order of Rs. 450 crores annually. At the end of the Third Five Year Plan, India's share in this amounted to less than 1 per cent. (Rs. 4.3 crores—pre-devaluation). It is estimated that exports of leather and leather combination footwear would rise from Rs. 4.3 crores in 1965-66 to Rs. 10.8 crores in 1970-71 (pre-devaluation), thus raising India's share in the world trade from 1 per cent to 2 per cent.

**Technical Staff of Railway Electrification Project**

3563. Shri Namblar:  
Shri Mohammad Ismail;  
Shri C. K. Chakrapani;  
Shri Ganesh Ghosh;  
Shri F. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent annually by Government since 1965 in imparting training inside and outside the country to the technical staff of Railway Electrification;

(b) the number of staff trained in 923(A) LSD—8.

India and in foreign countries;

(c) whether such staff has improved up to the mark so far as technical know-how is concerned;

(d) if so, whether Government are aware that India can earn foreign exchange by imparting training to the persons from developing countries in similar fields;

(e) whether any offer has come from any foreign developing country in this regard; and

(f) whether any steps have been taken so far to negotiate with the foreign developing countries in this regard?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-778/67].

(b) 128 were trained abroad; others acquired necessary skill by association with foreign trained staff during normal duty.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. We have afforded training facilities to more than 50 foreign Railway personnel of developing countries since 1948 in different departments on Indian Railways.

(e) Yes, through diplomatic channels.

(f) Yes, through the Department of Communications, Government of India, for training facilities available in the Indian Railways School of Signal Engineering & Telecommunication, Secunderabad, at present.

**Halt Station at Balangir Town (S. E. Railway)**

3564. Shri R. E. Singh Deo:  
Shri Dhirendranath:  
Shri P. K. Deo:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have a passenger halt station at