

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

Balangir town (South-Eastern Railway) as the Balangir Station is too far from the town;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the people in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). No.

(c) Does not arise.

Road Under-Bridge, Near Titlagarh Station

**3565. Shri R. R. Singh Deo:
Shri Dhirendranath:
Shri P. K. Deo:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the people to have a road under-bridge near the Titlagarh Railway Station on the South-Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes.

(b) The proposed under-bridge is not considered feasible as it would be very difficult and costly to arrange adequate drainage for it on account of the surrounding terrain being at a higher level.

Senior and Junior Administrative Officers

3566. Shri Arjan Singh Bhadoria: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the maximum permissible period of stay for Senior and Junior Administrative Officers on a particular Railway;

(b) the total number of such officers on the North Eastern Railway, Headquarters who have crossed the permissible time limit; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) No specific period of stay has been prescribed.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Mineral Exploration with U.S. Aid

**3567. Shri Bhogendra Jha:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:**

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a scheme, in consultation with the U.S. Agency for International Development for a multi-purpose mineral exploration of the country;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the scheme;

(d) whether the contract for the exploration work has been given to an American engineering Company;

(e) if so, the terms of the contract; and

(f) when the scheme is expected to be implemented?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The scheme envisages airborne surveys of the following three selected regions which are of considerable importance for locating new resources of non-ferrous metals:

1. Aravalli region in Rajasthan.
2. Eastern Cuddapah basin in Andhra Pradesh.
3. Mica belt and Ranchi Plateau in Bihar.

These three areas cover an extent of 120,000 sq. kms. The surveys will be carried out by combined magnetometric, electromagnetic and radiometric methods. In the event of promising zones being located the air borne survey operation will be followed up by work on the ground which will comprise geological, geophysical and