

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) to (c). It is resumed that the Member's reference is to the enhanced time limit introduced on Railways for advance reservation.

In order to meet the heavy rush of traffic during Summer effectively and with a view to giving relief to the travelling public by reducing the queues at the reservation offices and to avoid black-marketing in reservations by unsocial elements, the time limit for advance reservation has been enhanced on Railways as an experimental measure.

The working of this system is being watched. The question whether this arrangement should be extended uniformly throughout the year will be considered after a full assessment of the experiment is made.

Indian Pavilion at Montreal Exhibition

652. Shri Meetha Lal:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the cost borne by Government in terms of foreign exchange in setting up a pavilion for Indian goods in Montreal Exhibition 1967; and

(b) how much export orders of the goods displayed at this exhibition are anticipated?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) The total cost in foreign exchange in setting up the pavilion in the Exhibition 1967 at Montreal (Canada) is likely to be around Rs. 2,08,80,000.00.

(b) The exhibition, which is to last for six months, has opened recently on the 28th April, 1967 and it is too early to anticipate or forecast the export orders which would be obtained through this participation.

Montreal Exhibition

653. Shri Meetha Lal:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri V. Krishnamoorthi:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of girls was recruited and sent as guides for Indian Pavilion in Montreal Exhibition for six months;

(b) their service conditions and salary paid to them;

(c) why was it necessary to send girl guides from India at a high cost when guides could be recruited locally at a comparatively cheaper cost; and

(d) whether Government have selected other personnel also for the Indian Pavilion at the Fair?

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

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-418/67].

(c) Taking all factors into consideration it was felt that guides from India would be more useful and less costly in terms of foreign exchange. However, local talent was also utilised to the extent possible and 10 Indian guides were selected.

(d) Yes, Sir. They are already in Montreal.

Import of Cotton from U.A.R. and Sudan

654. Shri F. G. Sen:
Shri Sharda Nand:
Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:
Shri Ranjit Singh:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether possibilities of barter have been explored for the import of Cotton from U.A.R. and Sudan; and

(b) if so, with what results?