

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a). Yes. Sleeper coaches have been provided on all Mail and Express trains involving night journeys.

(b) Does not arise.

RAIL ROAD TRANSPORT

3600. **SHRI LAKHANLAL GUPTA : SHRI G. S. MISHRA : SHRI NATHU RAM AHIRWAR :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco, walnuts, onions, bananas exported from the country are mainly transported to Ports of export by road transport; and

(b) if so, the reasons for transporting by road transport in preference to Rail which is cheaper?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) It is correct that onions and tobacco for export are transported to the port mainly by road. Walnuts move partly by rail and partly by road and bananas, mainly by rail.

(b) Whether the exporter chooses one mode of transport or the other would really depend on the circumstances of each individual case. Broadly speaking, exporters of onions prefer road transport because the traffic originates in areas not far from the port of export and road transport is better suited for short distance traffic. On the other hand, for bananas, rail transport is preferred because it saves jolts and spoilage in transit and the distances are fairly big. It is hardly necessary to add that rail transport may not always be cheaper. It would entail, in most cases, some transport by road at either end and that may appreciably put up the total costs.

IMPORT OF ART SILK YARN

3601. **SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of art silk yarn has been discontinued due to abolition of export scheme for art silk fabrics;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to revive the scheme for export promotion art silk fabrics and, if so, when;

(c) whether the art silk powerloom weaving industry which has been badly hit with the discontinuance of import of this raw material has demanded that Government should fix reasonable prices of indigenously produced art silk and synthetic yarn and arrange for its equitable distribution on installed loom basis; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps taken to save the industry from closure?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) It is a fact that import of art silk (rayon yarn) has been discontinued due to the abolition of Export Promotion Scheme for art silk fabrics. Certain imports of other types of manmade fibre and yarn are however, allowed to be made to meet along with indigenous yarn, the overall requirements of the art silk weaving industry.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It is a fact that the art silk powerloom weaving industry has been making representations to Government regarding the price fixation and distribution of indigenous art silk and synthetic yarn.

(d) Certain steps in this direction have already been taken and brought into force.

YARN FOR HANDLOOMS

3602. **SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the handlooms pay not less than 25 per cent higher prices for the yarn they buy by way of reeling bundling, baling charges plus insurance and transport and profits of mills and middlemen as agreed to by the Powerloom Enquiry Committee headed by Shri Ashoka Mehta; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to remove the disparity in the prices of yarn bought by the handlooms from mills?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI