

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS****(SHRI C.M. POONACHA):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ASSAM****5431. SHRI RUPNATH BRAHMA:**Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) the projects taken up by Government till now for the industrial development in Assam; and

(b) whether any survey has been made regarding the availability of the raw materials for different industries in Assam ?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED):** (a) and

(b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**WORLD EXPORT OF CASHEW KERNELS****5432. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN:** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to State:

(a) the total world export of Cashew Kernels at present;

(b) India's share in the total world export of Cashew Kernels; and

(c) how does this compare with the position in 1956?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):** (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House (*Palced in Library. See No. LT—2168/67*).**EXPORT OF CASHEW KERNELS****5433. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN :** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government to meet the competition from other countries in India's export trade in Cashew Kernels;

(b) whether these steps have yielded any results;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what further steps Government intend to take in this respect?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):**(a)The following steps have been taken by the Government to meet the competition from other producing countries:

(i) centrally sponsored schemes have been introduced for increasing the production of raw cashew nuts;

(ii) special attention is being paid to improve the methods of collection of raw nuts from the cashew growing areas. In this connection, a Committee was specially constituted which has studied the whole problem of collection of cashew nuts and the report is under finalisation;

(iii) the import of raw cashewnuts has been placed under open general licence in order to enable our cashew processing units to expand their capacity and increase their exports;

(iv) in order to provide suitable material for packing, imports of tinplates, box strappings, soldering material etc., are allowed to the extent of 5 per cent of the f.o.b. realisation of exports of cashew kernels.

(b) and (c). As a result of our efforts our exports have gone up from Rs. 15.65 crores in 1957-58 to the level of Rs. 44.76 crores in 1966-67.

(d) In addition to what has been mentioned under (a), the Government is also considering how the operational efficiency of cashew processing units in the country can be improved, thus reducing the cost of production and making our product more competitive in the international market. Effort is also being made to find new markets for this product and for this purpose market surveys commodity studies are being undertaken.

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNED THROUGH EXPORT OF CASHEW PRODUCTS****5434. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN:** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned through the export of cashew products between 1956 and 1967; and