

**RE-OPENING OF CLOSED MILLS IN
COIMBATORE**

5626. SHRI K. RAMANI : Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state ; (a) whether it is fact that during the discussion between the Commerce Minister and the Madras Chief Minister on the question of the reopening of closed textile Mills in Coimbatore there was a suggestion to liquidate one of the closed mills ;

(b) if so, the name of the mill and the number of workers to be affected; and

(c) the way-out suggested by Government to stop the liquidation of the mill ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) :** (a) During the discussions between the Commerce Minister and the Chief Minister of Madras, there was no specific suggestion to liquidate one of the closed mills in Coimbatore. Only the problem of restarting some of the mills including possibilities of liquidation or reconstruction in terms of the Cotton Textile Companies (Management of undertakings and liquidation or Reconstruction) Bill 1967, was generally discussed.

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

**CLASSIFICATION OF TIMBER PARTICLE
BOARDS**

5627. SHRI N. R. DEOGHARE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no classification in the I.R.C.A. Goods Tariff No. 32 for Hard Boards, Block Boards and Timber Particle Boards;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Railway Board's Commercial Committee, in its meeting held at Bombay in March, 1967, decided the classification of these items; and

(c) if so, whether the same has since been implemented and if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
C. M. POONACHA) :** (a) Hard board,

block board and timber particle board do not, as such, appear among the classification headings in the I.R.C.A. Goods Tariff. They are charged under "Boards, patent, insulating or building [(ceiling, wall or flooring)]".

(b) At the meeting held at Bombay in March, 1967, the Commercial Committee formulated certain recommendations in regard to the rate to be charged for these products.

(c) The recommendations are under examination. Apart from these products, there are a number of others involved and very careful and detailed examination had to be made.

MAIZE PRODUCTION

5628. SHRI M. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of maize produced in India, State-wise, during the last three years;

(b) the industrial uses to which maize is put at present in the country and the industries which use Maize as their main raw material; and

(c) whether maize can be exported to other countries at favourable prices and if so, the names of such countries?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AF-
FAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) :** (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See. No. LT-2187/67]

(b) For production of starch, glucose, dextrose, corn steep liquor and maize oil. Maize is also used by Poultry and cattle feed industries.

(c) The present price pattern of local maize does not permit export of maize. Further, the export of cereals is banned.

MORAN—SIMALUGURI RAILWAY LINE

5629. SHRI R. BARUA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to abolish the Railway line from Moran to

Simaluguri on the Northeast Frontier Railways;

(b) If so, whether the views of the Government of Assam were taken; and

(c) whether in view of the meagre transport facilities, Government will allow this line to continue.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No such proposal is, at present, under consideration.

(b) In view of the answer to part (a), the question does not arise.

(c) The question whether this line should be closed has not yet been considered.

SUPPLY OF SMALL TRACTORS TO M.Ps.

5630. **SHRI DEO RAO PATIL** : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some Members of Parliament who are also cultivators have requested Government to supply small tractors and their parts and other agricultural implements; and

(b) if so, Government's decision in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). A number of Members of Parliament have approached the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) with request for priority allotment of agricultural tractors. These requests are under the consideration of that Ministry.

EXPORTS TO EAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES

5631. **SHRI R. BARUA** : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's exports to East African countries have recorded a perceptible fall in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the position particularly in the field of small scale industries products ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No, Sir. Apart from 1966-67 when the problems of adjustment following devaluation led to a fall in trade, our exports to East African countries (Kanya, Uganda and Tanzania) from 1963-66 had shown an increase as the figures below will show :

(Value in lakhs)

	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67
Kanya	505	529	486	508
Uganda	66	78	103	126
Tanzania	277	279	461	292
TOTAL	848	886	1050	926

(b) Government keeps under constant review various measures to promote export of Indian goods, including products of small-scale industries. The promotion of export of Khangas, Lungis, Ghamelas, cooking utensils, hurricane lanterns, hand tools and small tools, steel trunks etc., has been receiving special attention through the Export Promotion Council's representatives stationed in Kanya.

ELECTRIFICATION OF RAILWAY TRACKS

5632. **SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY** : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the rise in coal price and future threat of further rise, electrification programme of Railway tracks is proposed to be speeded up and extended; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) - (a) and (b) - Electrification of track is being done on a programmed basis, keeping in view the operational necessity, availability of motive power and electric energy, and contiguity of the section to the already electrified area. Price of coal is not the sole criterion for switching over to electrification. Besides, rates for electricity for traction have also gone up. Electric traction is highly capital consuming at the initial stage, and can be remunerative only on section where density of traffic is very heavy.