

(a) whether "Austerity type schools" have been provided by the Railways near the Railway colonies with a view to give educational facilities to the children of Railway employees near their colonies ;

(b) whether the number of pupils to be admitted in such school is limited to 50 for all the five classes ;

(c) whether the staff of such schools is limited to one teacher only ; and

(d) if so, what is the channel of promotion for such teachers and the reasons for putting the limit of 50 students only ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) :** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). There is only one teacher in such schools, where the number of pupils is limited to 50.

(d) Such teachers are considered for promotion alongwith other teachers in traditional-type Primary schools in the same area. The number of children is restricted to 50 as the children have to be taught in different shifts by resorting to multiple teaching by one teacher.

#### TEXTILE MACHINERY INDUSTRY

5641. **SHRI M. L. SONDHI :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Textile Machinery Industry is ailing from under-utilisation ;

(b) whether this is the conclusion reached by the National Council of Applied Economic Research in its latest study; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to overcome this situation ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) :** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Government are considering a number of measures like encouraging the textile mills to undertake rehabilitation and modernisation of their old and outmoded machinery and to implement expansion programmes. Avenues are also being explored to promote exports of textile machinery.

Besides, the following measures have been taken :

- (i) Imports of textile machinery has been reduced to the minimum.
- (ii) Importation of machinery on the ground of their better of efficiency/performance than of similar Indian machinery is not ordinarily allowed.
- (iii) For assisting domestic market sales banks have been required not to charge more than 8% for deferred payments which have extended upto seven years in deserving cases.
- (iv) Restriction under credit arrangements for rediscounting facilities fixed by the Industrial Development Bank has been increased from Rupees 25 Lakhs per year per unit to Rupees 50 Lakhs.
- (v) To stimulate the flow of credit for exports, banks have been asked not to charge more than six percent in respect of credit and 8% in the case of packing credit advance.
- (vi) Industrial Development Bank's export credit has been extended to seven years in deserving cases and up to 10 years in very special cases.

The above measures are expected to lead to increase in the demand for textile machinery which in turn will result in fuller utilisation of the capacity of the textile machinery industry.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS BY PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANIES TO POLITICAL PARTIES

5642. **SHRI M. L. SONDHI :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a study of 126 leading public companies has revealed that about Rs. 1.1 crore were contributed to various political parties in the last general elections ;

(b) whether the said study has also revealed that 73.7 % of these funds went to Congress Party and 25.2% to Swatantra Party; and

(c) whether there was any directive by Government to the companies to contribute funds to Congress Party ?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) :** (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the article based on the study conducted by the Research Bureau of the Economic Times published in its issue dated the 5th December, 1967.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

#### PRICES OF COTTON

**5643. SHRI DEORAO PATIL :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for imposing restrictions by the Textile Commissioner and by the Reserve Bank on advances being made by the scheduled banks against the security of raw cotton (*Kapas*) stocks;

(b) the effect of these restrictions on the cotton prices in the cotton market; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop a steep fall in cotton prices ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) :** (a) to (c). Credit regulations, along with regulations pertaining to stock levels of cotton, have been continued in the current season with a view to avoiding an undue rise in cotton prices as well as the hoarding or cornering of cotton stocks by mills and trade. These measures have had no unwholesome effect on cotton prices so far. Prices in the current season have been generally ruling at levels substantially higher than the minimum support prices fixed at the beginning of the season.

#### ALTERNATIVE USES FOR SULPHUR RICH COAL PRODUCED IN ASSAM

**5644. SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the research work undertaken by the Regional Research Laboratory at Jorhat to find alternative avenues for the utilisation of the sulphur rich coal produced in Assam has since been completed ;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the decisions taken thereon ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :** (a) to (c). Work is in progress at the Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat on the possibilities of using Assam coal for metallurgical purposes, fertiliser manufacture and in the cement and sugar industries etc.

#### SHIPPING SPACE FOR OIL CAKES

**5645. DR. RANEN SEN :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exporters of oil cakes have complained of non-availability of shipping space for their exporters; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide shipping facilities for oil cake exporters ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**प्रथम श्रेणी के रेलवे अधिकारियों की पदोन्नति**

**5646. श्री विभूति मिश्र :** क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे में प्रथम श्रेणी के अधिकारी 4 वर्ष की सेवा पूरी हो जाने के बाद सीनियर स्केल वेतन मान पाने के हकदार हो जाते हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि यदि उनके हकदार हो जाने पर एक वर्ष में कोई स्थान रिक्त नहीं होता है तो रेलवे बोर्ड अन्य रेलों में उनकी पदोन्नति करने का विचार करता है और एक बार नियुक्त प्रथम श्रेणी के अधिकारियों की पदावनति द्वितीय श्रेणी के और अस्थायी अधिकारियों की पदावनति करने के बाद ही की जा सकती है ;

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो पश्चिम रेलवे में यह प्रक्रिया न अपनाये जाने के क्या कारण हैं ; और