

(b) No. The incident occurred on Curzon Road outside Baroda House.

**Pressure from Mill Owners to raise price of controlled cloth**

2451. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a pressure from the textile mill owners to raise the prices of controlled varieties of cloth;

(b) whether Government have received any representation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). In February, 1970, the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation asked for upward revision of the multiplier by 29 to 30% over the prices fixed on 2-5-68.

(c) The question regarding revision of prices of controlled cloth has been referred to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. Their recommendations are awaited.

**Fulfillment of Prime Minister's promises to All-Party Delegation from Kerala on crisis in Cashew Industry**

2452. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state how far Government have fulfilled the promises that the Prime Minister had made to the All Party Delegation from Kerala which met her last year to discuss the crisis in cashew industry ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : As recommended by the Central Study Team, deputed to Kerala in May 1971, after the visit of All Party Delegation from Kerala to the Prime Minister, Government of India took some measures in respect of Cashew Industry. A statement is placed on the table of the House.

*Statement*

- (1) Government have granted a loan of Rs. 20 lakhs to the Kerala State Government to enable the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation to take over and put in to operation again ten of the closed cashew processing factories.
- (2) Cashew Corporation of India has been advised to afford ninety days credit for Rs. 20 lakhs to the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation.
- (3) Cashew Corporation of India has been directed to take into account the number of workers employed in a factory while deciding its import allocation of raw cashew nuts.
- (4) Allotees may transfer their quota of imported rawnuts only with the prior approval of the Cashew Corporation of India.

**Construction of Kottavalsa-Kirundul Line**

2453. SHRI K. RAMA KRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kottavalsa-Krundul line is relayed prematurely for a length of 44 Kms; if so, the reasons therefor and why it could not be foreseen at the time of constructing the line in the year 1955-66;

(b) whether 25 per cent of the wooden sleepers on this line have become unserviceable and require to be replaced; and

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for this loss and if so, what action has been taken against the concerned staff and officials ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No. However, the rails are being replaced on sharp curves for a length of about 44 kms., on the difficult Ananthagiri ghat section of

Kottavalasa-Kirandul Railway line. The reason necessitating the replacement is abnormal wear of rails, caused by the under-noted factors :—

- (i) Very sharp curves, over the whole length of 44 kms.
- (ii) Continuous steep falling gradient of 1 in 60.
- (iii) Large number of tunnels.
- (iv) Heavy iron ore traffic, loaded in BOBS/BOX wagons with high axle loads & small diameter wheels, hauled by triple diesel engines.

The worst combination of such features obtaining on this line did not exist anywhere on the Indian Railways at the time of construction and as such the same could not be foreseen.

- (b) Yes.
- (c) Does not arise.

**T. D. A. Deal with European Countries for Exporting certain Commodities**

2455. SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Trade Development Authority has entered into deals with certain European countries for manufacturing certain commodities and exporting them to those countries ;

(b) if so, the names of the commodities and the countries ;

(c) the estimated foreign exchange likely to be earned ; and

(d) whether plants for manufacturing the commodities will be wholly indigenous ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (d). The Trade

Development Authority is not a trading organisation but is a servicing agency which helps Indian exporting units and overseas buyers to establish merchandising contacts and facilitates export production and marketing prospects. It has in the course of its activities also assisted Indian exporters and foreign manufacturers/importers in four cases for finalising programmes of manufacturing in India certain items for export.

The products to be manufactured and the countries to which these will be exported are : LT switch gear for U. K., machine tools for U. K., internal combustion engine parts for U. K. and hydraulic jacks and shock absorbers for Netherlands.

The total estimated foreign exchange likely to be earned from these proposals will be Rs. 2.5 crores in a period of five years.

The plants and tools for manufacturing the products will be supplied by the foreign collaborators.

**Export of Manganese Ore to Japan by MMTC**

2456. DR. RANEN SEN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has signed a contract with Japanese steel mills for the supply of manganese ore to Japan ;

(b) if so, the price agreed upon ; and

(c) the total quantity of ore to be supplied ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (c). Yes Sir, the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has signed a contract with the Steel Mills of Japan for supply of 3,00,000 tonnes (including a quantity of 0.7 lakh tonnes to be shipped at the option of the Steel Mills) of Ferruginous manganese ore during 1972-73.