

Train Accident in Lajkura (Sambalpur Division)

3621. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an accident in June, 1989 at Lajkura level crossing in Sambalpur district, Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons of the accident;

(c) whether Government have made payment for the treatment of the injured and compensation to the kith and kin of the persons who died in the accident; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). On 26.6.89, a loaded truck dashed against a light engine at unmanned level crossing near Brajrajnagar station on Bilaspur Division of South Eastern Railway. The accident occurred due to negligence of the truck driver.

(c) The Railways have not incurred any expenditure on the treatment of the injured and no compensation has been paid as the same is not admissible.

(d) Does not arise.

Rubber Plantation in Orissa

3622. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area in Orissa where rubber plantation has been undertaken as on 30 June, 1989;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to bring some additional areas in Orissa

under rubber plantation during eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) The total area in Orissa where rubber plantation has been undertaken as on 30th June, 1989 is 146 hectares.

(b) and (c). Large scale expansion of rubber cultivation in approximately 5000 hectares in Orissa has been envisaged in the draft 8th Plan for rubber prepared by Rubber Board. The planting is proposed to be got undertaken by Orissa State Public Sector plantation Corporation and by individual entrepreneurs spread over a period of five years from 1990-91 to 1994-95.

Value Addition Criterion in Noida EPZ

3623. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the specific level of value of addition criterion in the Noida Export Processing Zone;

(b) whether the companies which are operating in the Export Processing Zone are following this value addition criterion; and

(c) if not, how do Government propose to enforce the value addition criterion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). The level of value addition in all the Export Processing Zones varies from product to product, from a minimum of 10% in the case of gold jewellery upto 60% in the case of software etc. It is reported that exact achievement of the value addition is not always possible in all cases due, inter alia to changes and fluctuations in various operational parameters. The per-

formance of the Zone units including the value addition is reviewed from time to time and corrective measures are taken wherever found necessary.

World Bank Study on Export Processing Zones

3624. SHRIMOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to 'Business Standard' of May 26, 1989, the news item "EPZs fail to deliver goods" and state:

(a) whether a World Bank study has concluded that the record has been disappointing about the technology transfer, absorption of labour, export provisions, etc. by Export Processing Zones in the Asian countries; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). A study of the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in four Asian countries namely, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Philippines has appeared in the World Bank Research Observer January, 1989. It has been observed, with reference to the experience in these countries, that the transfer of technology to and linkage of the domestic economy with these Zones has been disappointing. It is, however, mentioned that the Zones have achieved the objective of earning foreign exchange and providing the employment. The author has concluded that the EPZs have a limited role in export promotion.

These conclusions are not applicable in the context of the performance of the Indian export processing Zones. An evaluation of the working of the already established zones at Kandla and Santacruz has indicated net positive gain to the economy and an internal rate of return which is higher than the rate of

return normally accruing on Government investment. The linkage of Indian Zones with the domestic economy is more effective in view of the developed industrial infrastructure in the country.

Government is constantly reviewing the performance of the EPZs in the country with a view to improving performance through appropriate promotional measures and input support.

Violation of FERA by Firms of Auditors

3625. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases regarding violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act by Auditors Firms of Auditors in Madras and other metropolitan cities detected during 1987 and 1988; and

(b) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) During the years 1987 and 1988, the Directorate of Enforcement did not register any case of FERA violation against any Auditors firms of Madras or of other Metropolitan cities.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

Railway Line from Porbandar to Jetty Port

3626. SHRI BHARAT KUMAR ODRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct a broad gauge railway line from Porbandar to Jetty Port to facilitate the