

adjoining power systems. The progress of construction of inter-state and inter-regional transmission lines has been stepped up for this purpose. The Centre is also rendering assistance in overcoming the bottlenecks faced by the project authorities in the speedy completion of schemes for power generation and transmission.

Along term view of the power supply position has been taken and plans for the decade 1971-81 are being formulated for both generation as well as power transmission in consultation with the States.

Closure of Mckenzie's Ltd., Bombay

2714. SHRI RAJA KULKARNI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the closure of Mckenzie's Ltd. at Bombay, an engineering concern doing business in the manufacture of Railway Wagons, Forklift trucks and other machinery equipments; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take in view of loss of production and loss of jobs to thousands of workmen due to mismanagement of the company?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have already ordered on 3rd June, 1971, an investigation under section 15 of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951, into the affairs of the company.

Railway Users' Committees

2715. SHRI VIKRAM CHAND MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) for how long the Railway Users' Committees have been in existence in the various Railway Zones; and

(b) how many members are on these Committees and for what duration they are appointed on these Committees?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) and (b). Railway Users' Consultative Committees of different types have been functioning on the Railways at various levels for the last 12 to 18 years, as shown below:—

Name of Committee	Year since when functioning
(1) Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee	1953
(2) Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee ..	1953
(3) Railway Users' Amenities Committee ..	1956
(4) Suburban Railway Users' Consultative Committee ..	1956
(5) Time Table Committee ..	1956
(6) Catering Supervisory Committee ..	1956
(7) Bookstall Advisory Committee ..	1956
(8) Station Consultative Committee	1956
(9) Local Catering Advisory Committee ..	1959

The membership of the above Committees varies from 5, as in the case of Bookstall Advisory Committee on the Central Railway to 49 in the case of Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee on the Northern Railway. The members of these Committees are nominated for a period of two years at a time.

Theft and Pilferage of Imported Goods meant for Nepal

2716. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thefts and pilferages of imported goods meant for Nepal are occurring during transit in the Railways; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check such thefts and pilferages?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) Yes, some cases have come to light.

(b) A statement is attached.

Statement

Steps taken to check thefts and pilferages of imported goods meant for Nepal :

- (i) A pilot Scheme has been introduced between Howrah-Barauni Junction-Raxaul where loading and unloading of goods meant for Nepal is closely supervised.
- (ii) Trains carrying goods meant for Nepal are escorted by the Railway Protection Force in vulnerable sections.
- (iii) Joint checking by Commercial staff and Railway Protection Force personnel are conducted at Howrah and Barauni Junction.
- (iv) Crime Intelligence staff of Railways and Central Crime Bureau of Railway Board are deployed to collect intelligence with a view to tracking down criminals.
- (v) Close co-ordination between Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police and Excise & Customs officers are maintained to deal with the crime effectively and to effect red-handed arrests of the culprits.
- (vi) A meeting of the officers of the Railway Protection Force and Customs & Excise is being held in Railway Board to review the existing preventive measures and to devise further ways and means to eliminate such complaints.

Export of Railway Coaches to Nigeria

2717. SHRI T. S. LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Integral Coach Factory has received any order from Nigeria for the supply of Railway Coaches ;

(b) if so, the value of the order and the number of coaches ordered ; and

(c) when the order is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No.

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

Assistance to States for damages due to Floods

2718. SHRI N. E. HORO : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the assessment of damage due to floods in 1970 and the assistance which has been provided by the Central Government to the states ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to check damage on account of such calamities in future ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) A Statement showing the total damages as reported by the States on account of floods during 1970 is attached (Appendix).

The Central Government gives financial assistance to the State Governments taking into account the recommendations made by the Central Teams deputed to the States to make an assessment of the flood damage and the extent of relief measures. The following financial assistance has been sanctioned by the Centre so far to the State Governments in 1970-71 towards flood relief expenditure :

	(Rs. in crores)
1. Andhra Pradesh	5.10*
2. Assam	5.75**
3. Bihar	2.35**
4. Gujarat	2.80†
5. Kerala	2.20
6. Rajasthan	1.50
7. Uttar Pradesh	4.50††
8. West Bengal	18.91††

*Besides this, a sum of Rs. 7.50 crores was released towards spillover expenditure on cyclone relief measures.

**Includes drought relief expenditure also

†Includes earthquake relief measures also

††In addition, the Department of Agriculture have released Rs. 5 crores each to West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh as short-term loan for purchase of seeds, fertilizers etc.

Note : The figures above are those sanctioned during 1970-71 including the arrears of assistance for earlier years.