

**Fresh Levy Imposed on Indian Goods by U. K.**

219. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :  
SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :  
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH  
MALIK :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U. K. Government have recently imposed a fresh levy on the Indian goods exported to U. K.;

(b) if so, how far it has affected India's trade; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Government of India are not aware of any fresh levy imposed by U. K. on Indian goods. The Government of U. K. have, however, decided to impose a new tariff on our cotton textiles with effect from the 1st January, 1972.

(b) The effect of the proposed customs tariff in U. K. on our cotton textile export can be precisely assessed only after the tariff comes into effect.

(c) Government of India feel that the action proposed by the British Government in respect of our cotton textiles is wholly unjustified.

**Lowering of Voting Age**

220. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :  
SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN :  
SHRI R. V. BADE :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received many resolutions from various sections demanding the lowering of voting age; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) : (a) Yes, Sir; certain representations in this behalf have been received.

(b) The matter is being examined.

**Negotiations with South Korea Re : Long-Term Supply Programme**

221. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :  
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently negotiated with the South Korean Government for a long-term supply programme;

(b) if so, the nature of discussions held; and

(c) the conclusions arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

**माल-डिब्बों को तोड़ने की घटनाओं में वृद्धि**

222. डा० संकटा प्रसाद :  
श्री हरि किशोर सिंह :

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेलवे में माल-डिब्बों को तोड़ने की घटनाओं में वृद्धि हो रही है;

(ख) पूर्वी और पूर्वोत्तर सीमांत रेलवे में वर्ष 1969-70 और 1970-71 में ऐसी कितनी घटनाएँ हुईं;

(ग) इस संबंध में प्रत्येक वर्ष में कितने आदिबनों को हिरासत में लिया गया और उनमें रेलवे के कितने कर्मचारी हैं;

(घ) क्या सरकार का विचार इस संबंध में नये नियम लागू करने का है; और

(ङ) यदि हाँ, तो तत्संबंधी शर्तों क्या हैं ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री के० हनुमन्तैया) : (क) जी हाँ, कुछ सीमा तक।

(ख) 1969-70 और 1970-71 के दौरान पूर्व और पूर्वोत्तर सीमा रेलों पर हुई दुर्घटनाओं की संख्या इस प्रकार है :

रेलवे	1969-70	1970-71
पूर्व	449	691
पूर्वोत्तर सीमा	315	409

(ग) पकड़े गये व्यक्तियों की संख्या इस प्रकार है :

रेलवे	1969-70	1970-71
पूर्व कुल संख्या	180	242
उनमें रेल कर्म- चारियों की संख्या	10	5
पूर्वोत्तर सीमा कुल संख्या	303	414
उनमें रेल कर्म- चारियों की संख्या	98	87

(घ) जी नहीं।

(ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

**Installation of Thermal Power Station in North Bengal**

223. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed thermal power station for North Bengal would not now be installed in North Bengal; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) and (b). The Planning and Construction of power stations is normally the responsibility of the respective States except where the matter concerns more than one State and where the needs of the regional grid as such have to be met. In such few exceptional cases, the Government of India have to consider setting up of power stations in the Central Sector.

For a situation of this nature, in North Bengal and North Bihar, four alternative sites in North Bengal are under consideration and the State Government have been requested to carry out the further investigations necessary for taking a decision in the matter.

**Absorption of Former Martin Railway Employees in Indian Railways**

224. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :

SHRI MULKI RAJ SAINI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to reopen the Martin Burn Light Railways (which closed down recently) with subsidy;

(b) whether the Martin Railway employees will be absorbed in the Indian Railways if the Light Railways are not re-opened; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide jobs to those employees ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No such proposal is under Government's consideration at present.

(b) Yes.

(c) The employees of the erstwhile Shahdara-Saharanpur Light Railway have been screened and offers of appointment issued to a large number of them. The screening of the staff belonging to erstwhile Howrah-Amra and Howrah-Sheakhala Light