

(b) whether the National Textile Corporation intends to take over some more sick mills; and

(c) if so, the names of mills proposed to be taken over in the current year ?

**THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) :** (a) Excluding mills considered fit to be scrapped, 59 cotton textile mills were lying closed in the country as at the end of September, 1971. No assessment of sick cotton textile mills as such has been made.

(b) and (c). It is likely that the management of some more mills may be taken over by Government, under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, during the current year. It is, however, difficult to state the number and names of such mills at this stage.

#### **Trade Delegation from Iraq**

289. SHRI H. M. PATEL : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Iraqi Trade Delegation recently visited India for talks in regard to the Industrial Development in the two countries;

(b) whether Government of India have offered Iraq expertise and iron ore; and

(c) the likely increase in trade between the two countries as a result of these discussions.

**THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) :** (a) and (b). An Iraqi Trade Delegation visited India in the latter half of September 1971 for negotiating a new Trade Agreement and a Trade Plan for the year 1971-72. A new Trade Agreement was concluded on 24th September 1971 and on the same date a Trade plan for the period 1-9-71 to 31-3-73 was also concluded. The Agreement will be valid for three years from the date of ratification. It

was agreed by the two Delegations that an Indian Delegation would visit Iraq as early as possible for detailed discussions on the possibilities of economic collaboration including joint ventures like setting up of an oil refinery in India based on Iraqi crude oil and a steel mill in Iraq based on Indian iron ore. It was also noted that there were prospects for economic collaboration and execution by India of turn-key projects in Iraq, such as cement plants and railway communications.

(c) Under the new Trade Plan, a trade exchange of Rs. 414 millions during the period 1-9-71 to 31-3-73 is envisaged as against a trade exchange of Rs. 120.6 million under the previous plan.

#### **दोहद से इन्दौर तक रेलवे लाइन**

290. श्री भागीरथ भंडार : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) झाबुआ, थार (मध्य प्रदेश) से होकर दोहद (गुजरात) से इन्दौर (मध्य प्रदेश) तक की रेलवे लाइन पर कार्य प्रारम्भ न करने के क्या कारण हैं जबकि इस संबंध में कई बार सर्वेक्षण किया जा चुका है ?

(ख) क्या थार, झाबुआ, राजगढ़ सरदारपुर अलीराजपुर (मध्य प्रदेश) और दोहद (गुजरात) की नगर पालिकाओं, ग्राम पंचायतों और विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों ने केंद्रीय सरकार से उक्त लाइन पर कार्य प्रारम्भ करने का अनुरोध किया है, और

(ग) इस संबंध में अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की गई है और की जा रही है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री के० हनुमन्तैया) : (क) थार और झाबुआ के रास्ते, इन्दौर दोहद बड़ी लाइन/मीटर लाइन के रेल सम्पर्क के लिए 1953-55 में किये गये प्रारम्भिक इंजीनियरी और यातायात सर्वेक्षणों से पता चला था कि

बहु लाइन बहुत ही अलाभप्रद होगी। इसलिये, इस प्रस्ताव का परिस्थान कर दिया गया है।

(ख) जी हाँ।

(ग) अलाभप्रद होने और धन की कमी के कारण प्रभावित रेल सम्पर्क को चौथी योजना अवधि में विचार के लिए प्राथमिकता नहीं मिल पायेगी।

#### **Accumulation of Coal at Pit-heads**

291. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have been able to make any headway in clearing the accumulation of coal at the pit-heads; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the accumulation could be cleared so far and by what time the remaining accumulation is sought to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). Except for West Bengal-Bihar fields, the stocks of coal at pitheads in the other fields are normal, as despatches from the outlying fields are steadily going up.

A drive was launched in August '71 to clear the pithead stocks in the West Bengal-Bihar coalfields. As a result of this drive, despite the continuing difficulties in train running in the area, loading during the month of August '71 improved by about 660 wagons per day as compared to July '71. Consequently pithead stocks of coal at the collieries in West Bengal-Bihar fields also reduced to 7.38 million tonnes at the end of August '71 against 7.88 million tonnes at the end of July '71.

Though the level of coal loading in September and October '71 could not be maintained at the level of August due to unprecedented rains, floods and breaches, the same was still about 759 wagons and 250

wagons more than September and October 1970, respectively. The extent to which the pithead stock has come down as a result is not known as no official figures are yet available.

To effect further improvement in the transport of coal, a special drive has again been instituted on Eastern and South Eastern Railways from 11-11-1971 onwards for 10 days.

#### **Scheme for Mobile-Ticket Booking on Indian Railways**

292. SHRI BIJOY MODAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are having any scheme for mobile ticket booking by the Indian Railways;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the observations made by the General Manager, Southern Railway on the 22nd September, 1971 at Madurai about these schemes; and

(c) if so, the main features of the schemes and the reaction of Government thereto ?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) During an inspection of Madurai Jn. station, the General Manager, Southern Railway had expressed the view that mobile booking of passengers in the same way as mobile post office arrangements could be useful in big cities. The matter requires detailed examination before any definite scheme can be evolved.

#### **Completion of Farakka Barrage Project**

293. DR. RANEN SEN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :