

रेल मंत्री (श्री को० हनुमन्तैया) : (क) और (ख). जी हां, यह स्वीकृत नीति है कि ट्रंक लाइन पर लम्बी दूरी वाली सवारी गाड़ियों में अधिकाधिक शयनयानों की व्यवस्था की जाय।

STEPS TO MAKE DRY FRUITS AVAILABLE AT CHEAPER RATES

1276. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take any steps to end the concentration of dry fruits trade in a few hands and to eliminate profiteers and middle-men from this trade;

(b) if so, an outline of the proposal; and

(c) the measures taken to make dry fruits available to the public at cheaper rates?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A.C. GEORGE). (a) to (c) Bulk of dry fruits are imported into India from Afghanistan. In order to ensure that the trade in dry fruits is not concentrated in a few hands, import of dry fruits from Afghanistan, under the provision of the Indo-Afghan Trade Arrangement signed in New Delhi on Feb. 20, 1972, will not now be confined to "approved importers" only. It has been decided to consider applications for imports of dry fruits from Afghanistan from any person subject to certain safeguards. It is hoped that this will bring down the prices of fruits in India, and also result in diversification of India's exports to Afghanistan.

IRRIGATION CESS TO RAISE RESOURCES TO FINANCE IRRIGATION WORKS

1277. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :
SHRI P.M. MEHTA :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Irrigation Commission has favoured the levy of an Irrigation Cess in view of the necessity to raise resources to finance irrigation works;

(b) whether a similar step had been recommended by certain other Committee also; and

(c) the steps taken to implement this suggestion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): (a) The Irrigation Commission have not yet submitted their report.

(b) The Nijalingappa Committee set up by the Government of India in 1964 recommended that the water rates might initially be fixed as a suitable percentage ranging from 25 to 40 of the additional net benefit per acre derived by the farmers and where such data on additional net benefits are not available, the same may be fixed at 5 to 12 per cent of the gross income of the farmers. The committee also recommended that in States where irrigation charges were optional, there should be a charge to be levied on the entire culturable command area to cover at least the maintenance and operation charges. On carrying out actual irrigation, this facility charge paid in respect of the area should be deducted from the total irrigation dues for the year and should form part of the water rates.

(c) The recommendations of the Nijalingappa Committee were commended to the State Governments for adoption. The question of increase in water rates was since discussed on several occasions with the State Governments at various levels. In view of the need to raise additional resources and in pursuance of the policies already accepted, the State Governments have been urged to fix water rates in an equitable way so as to meet the maintenance and operation charges and interest at the rate of 2-1/2% and that the increased rate may be collected after providing for a transition period.

REPORT OF STUDY-CUM-SALES TEAM TO E.E.C.

1278: SHRI P.A. SAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state the action taken by Government on the Report submitted by the Study-cum-Sales team consisting of 4 non-official exporters, which visited E.E.C. countries for the purpose of exploring markets for Indian handicrafts?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE
(SHRI A. C. GEORGE)**

Recommendations of the Study cum-sales Team to E.E.C. Countries	Action taken
(a) There is need for keeping delivery schedules of goods ordered from abroad;	(a) The need for this has all along been emphasised on the entire export section of Handicrafts.
(b) Publicity for Indian handicrafts abroad should be given more attention.	(b) Various measures for publicity have been taken by the All India Handicrafts Board from time to time, such as films on different crafts, brochures and pamphlets on individual crafts, Directory of Exporters, handicrafts calendars etc. etc.
(c) A Central Show Room for Handicrafts may be set up, and	(c) This idea is already covered up in Crafts Museum.
(d) Buying teams from abroad may be invited to India.	(d) Individual buyers have been coming to India, but proposals regarding inviting of buyers teams have still to be received.

REPORT OF STUDY-CUM-SALES TEAM TO JAPAN

1279. SHRI P.A. SAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state the action taken on the report of the Sales-cum-Study Team headed by Shri S.K. Guha, Development Commissioner for Handicrafts that visited Japan in July, 1970?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A.C. GEORGE): The suggestions contained in the report for boosting of our exports were circulated to the Regional Exporters Associations of Handicrafts, State Governments, and all other Institutions concerned with the exports of handicrafts with a view to acquainting them with the conditions in the Japanese Market and the prospects for exports there. Further, the Market Extension Centres of the All India Handicrafts Board have been entrusted with added responsibilities to work as Handicrafts Service Centres on the basis of the idea of the Japanese Design Institute.

ADEQUACY OF RETIRING AND DORMITORY TYPE OF ROOMS AT PATNA CITY RAILWAY STATION

1280. SHRI MD. JAMILURRAHMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Retiring and dormitory type of rooms and waiting rooms available at Patna City Railway Station are adequate to meet the needs of the passengers; and

(b) if not, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) and (b). There are no Retiring Rooms at Patna City Railway Station. To meet the requirements of the passengers provision for one Retiring Room with 2 beds and one Dormitory with 4 beds has been made by Eastern Railway in their Works Programme for 1971-72. The Waiting room accommodation at Patna City Station is considered adequate for the needs of the passengers.

INSPECTION VISIT OF PATNA CITY RAILWAY STATION

1281. SHRI MD. JAMILURRAHMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Divisional Superintendent & Incharge of Patna City Railway Station has paid inspection visits to the Station; and

(b) if so, when?