

- (2) Shrimati Sumitra Gandhi Kulkarni, M.P., .. Member
- (3) Shri Narsingh Narain Pandey, M.P., .. Member
- (4) Shri Salebhoy Abdul Kadar, M.P., .. Member

(c) The terms of reference of the Committee are as under :

(i) To examine the rules and procedures in vogue on Railways in respect of sale of tickets and reservation of seats/berths and suggest proposals :

(a) to minimise inconvenience to passengers in the matter of obtaining tickets and reservations ;

(b) to remove the lacunae in the procedures which permit commission of irregularities ;

(ii) To identify the nature of malpractices and irregularities committed by outsiders including unrecognised Travel Agencies in securing unauthorised reservations and to suggest measures to stop the same.

(iii) To study the adequacy of the existing provisions of Law to deal effectively with the offenders and to make recommendations in this regard.

(d) The Committee is likely to submit its report some time in December, 1972.

Export of lenses for spectacles to USSR

1289. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government owned Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited has entered into an agreement with the U. S. S. R. Government to export lenses for spectacles during 1972-73 ;

(b) if so, the terms thereof ; and

(c) the foreign exchange likely to be earned as a result of this export ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). M/s. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, have entered into contract in April, 1972, with M/s.

Medexport, USSR, for the export of 4 lakh pieces of white spherical Menicus uncut lenses from India to USSR for delivery between June and September 1972. The payments are to be effected in Indian Rupees in accordance with the Trade Agreement between the two countries.

Derailment of bogies of the 145 Radhikapur-Mantharighat passenger train at Manihari Railway Station (Northeast Frontier Railway)

1290. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the press report appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 13th July, 1972 wherein it has been stated that six bogies of the 145 Radhikapur-Manihari passenger train were derailed at Manihari Railway Station on the 12th July, 1972 ;

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

(c) the number of persons killed and injured ; and

(d) the estimated loss of the railway property?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) There is no such train as 145 Radhikapur-Manihari passenger on the Northeast Frontier Railway. Presumably the Press report referred to the derailment of 124 Down Radhikapur—Manihari passenger train between Manihari and Tejnarayanpur stations on 9.7.1972.

(b) According to the provisional finding of the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety, Calcutta, the accident was due to some obstruction on the track. Most probably a portion of the Brake block of the leading right wheel of the second coach broke off and had fallen on the rail causing an obstruction and resulted in the wheel jumping off the rail resulting in the derailment of the coach and all subsequent coaches.

(c) In this accident no one was killed. However, 15 persons received injuries of whom 3 were hurt grievously.

(d) The cost of damage to railway property has been estimated at approximately Rs. 2,033/-.