

Railways' inability to transport jute to Despatching Centres

2257. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Jute Industry is facing crisis of the greatest magnitude due to inability of the Railways to transport jute from the Despatching Centres; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to avert the crisis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). Bulk of the traffic in jute is offered for despatch by rail from stations on the Northeast Frontier, North Eastern and Eastern Railways from August onwards.

Though the operation on these railways was adversely affected in recent months on account of breaches and flooding of track, severe shortage of electric power, staff agitations and loco coal shortage traffic in Jute has been cleared preferentially. The loading has progressively increased as will be seen from the following table:—

Month	Number of wagons loaded with Jute		
	Broad Gauge	Metre Gauge	Total
August, 1973	1076	2437	3513
September, 1973	2275	3119	5394
October, 1973	3125	3528	6653

Every effort is being made to step up loading further to the maximum extent possible.

Introduction of Jayanthi Janta Express Trains

2258. SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jayanthi Janta Express trains so far introduced in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce more such express trains in future; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a)

Two pairs of Jayanthi Janta Express have been introduced so far.

(b) and (c). As and when requisite resources become available introduction of additional Jayanti Janta Expresses will be duly considered.

Inclusion of Somasila Project in Andhra Pradesh in Fifth Plan

2259. SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has accepted the inclusion of Somasila Project in Andhra Pradesh in the Fifth Plan; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines—such as expenditure, likely period of commencement and completion of the project and the area to be irrigated by it?