

have been reduced on all varieties of jute manufactures as indicated below:—

(i) Carpet backing	} from Rs. 900/- to Rs. 600/- per tonne
(ii) Specialities	
(iii) Other Hessian	from Rs. 900/- to Rs. 750/- per tonne
(iv) Sackings	from Rs. 600/- to Rs. 450/- per tonne
(v) Cotton bagging	from Rs. 600/- to Rs. 200/- per tonne with effect from 11th February, 1967.

#### Export of Manganese

1345. Shri Deven Sen:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a fall in the export of manganese in recent years;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to find new markets/regain or retain old ones;

(d) whether any targets have been fixed for the Fourth Plan; and

(e) the foreign exchange likely to be earned during this period?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reasons for fall in export chiefly are:—

(i) Emergence of new sources of supply near the consuming countries.

(ii) Increase in the production of captive mines of the consumers.

(iii) Lesser dependence on manganese ore in steel production due to technological advances.

(iv) The internal requirements of manganese ore in India are growing on account of increasing production of ferromanganese and steel.

(c) Agency arrangements have been made in various important manganese ore consuming countries to find new markets/regain or retain old ones. In order to keep good business relations, delegations of Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India visit the major consuming countries of manganese ore from time to time to explore sales possibilities and effect sales.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The extent of foreign exchange earning would depend upon price and other conditions prevailing in the international market. However, export earning during 1966-67 is approximately Rs. 14,14,80,000.

#### Railway Complaint Books

1346. Shri Nihal Singh:  
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that Complaint Books are not sometimes made available to bonafide passengers by the Railway Employees at some stations whenever they are in the wrong;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether Government's attention also been drawn to frivolous complaints and harassment caused by people who want to take undue advantage of the Railway employees; and

(d) whether Government propose to introduce a system of deposit of say Re. one or Rs. 2 so that only bonafide complaints are made and no harassment is caused to the honest railway employees?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Ponnappa): (a) Yes. Some complaints have been received to this effect.

(b) The instructions are that the Complaint Books should be kept at a conspicuous place chained to the wall or to the desk. Non-production of the Complaint Book is viewed seriously and deterrent action is taken against staff held responsible.

(c) Yes, in some cases.

(d) No.

#### Increase in Prices of Coal

1347. Shri Nihal Singh: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to again increase the price of coal;

(b) the total increase in price granted during the last six years;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to reduce costs and bring down price;

(d) whether any new export markets have been found for Indian coal; and

(e) the target for exports during the Fourth Plan period?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) The entire coal prices issue is under reference to the Tariff Commission. Apart from a general increase unrelated to any specific factor as such, based largely on a study of the production costs, some price increases are granted from time to time for the implementation of the awards of bodies like the Labour Appellate Tribunal etc. which have the effect of pushing up cost of production.

(b) Apart from the revised grading-cost-price structure given effect to in February, 1962 in the case of coking coals and the ad-hoc increases in the case of some grades of coal granted in June 1961 and March, 1964, following increases have been

granted in the price of coal during the last six years on the whole:—

#### Bengal-Bihar coalfields:

Grades II and III — Rs. 6.02 per tonne

Other grades — Rs. 6.22 per tonne

#### Outlying fields of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa:

All coal — Rs. 5.42 per tonne

(c) The price policy of the Government is so formulated as to discourage inefficiency on the part of coal producing units.

(d) Even though no new markets have been found, some of the traditional markets have been recaptured and effort is being continuously made to explore new avenues of export.

(e) It is expected that the export of coal at the end of the Fourth Plan may be of the order of 2.15 million tonnes.

#### Shifting of Goods Shed at Jhajha

1348. Shri Kedar Paswan:

Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any new representation from the public at Jhajha (Eastern Railway) in regard to the shifting of the goods shed at Jhajha from the Northern side to the Southern side (near the Railway water tank) and for the provision of extra platform sheds at the same station; and

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

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Fozmacha): (a) Yes.

(b) The shifting of goods shed from the Northern side to Southern side at Jhajha, involves considerable expenditure, which in view of the financial stringency, does not appear to be justified for the present level of goods traffic at this station. As regards representation for extra