

Government's policy of regulated marketing of cotton involving, *inter-alia*, the requisitioning of cotton, has been necessitated by the need to effect an equitable distribution of available supplies of cotton to the industry. On a review of the situation, it has been decided that—

- (1) Growers and their co-operatives should sell the unsold quantities of cotton at appropriate ceiling prices subject to survey and the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, will use his good offices with the Indian Cotton Mills Federation to facilitate the lifting of such cotton.
- (2) Cotton which has been sold but is yet to be delivered could be adjusted, as far as possible, against movement permits issued by the Textile Commissioner to the purchasing mills.
- (3) Movement permits will be issued for the entire quantity of cotton purchased by the Indian Cotton Mills Federation which will be kept for distribution to mills, as necessary.

#### Trade Agreement with Czechoslovakia

1288. Shri Y. A. Prasad:  
Shri N. K. Sanghi:  
Shri Bedabrata Barua:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trade pact has been signed with Czechoslovakia recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A trade protocol was signed on 19th April, 1967 at Prague, Czechoslovakia, between an Indian Trade delegation and a Czechoslovak Trade delegation specifying that exchange of

goods between India and Czechoslovakia during 1967 shall be carried out on the basis of the Lists of Commodities 'A' and 'B' attached to the current Trade and Payments Agreement dated 7th November, 1963 and valid upto the end of the year 1968. A copy of this agreement is available in the library of the Parliament.

2. The prospects of trade during the year 1967 were also discussed between the two delegations. It is expected that the trade between the two countries during 1967 will be of the order of Rs. 72 crores both ways. During the year 1967 Czechoslovakia will supply to India machine tools, tractors C.K.D. and spare parts and components, capital goods, rolled steel products, tool alloy and special steel, chemicals, newsprint, laboratory and scientific equipment, components and raw materials for motorcycle, scooter, time pieces, house service electric meters, fuel injection equipment, etc. under collaboration scheme etc. Among the products to be exported to Czechoslovakia are, engineering and various industrial products, chemicals, drugs and medicinal herbs, ready-made garments, tyres and tubes, tinned fruits etc. in addition to traditional items like iron ore, jute manufactures, tanned and semi-tanned hides and skins, deoiled cakes, tea, coffee, tobacco, pepper, manganese ore and mica.

#### Contracts to Chittaranjan Locomotive Works

1289. Shri Y. A. Prasad:  
Shri N. K. Sanghi:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the probe committee suggested by Public Accounts Committee (Third Lok Sabha) to go into the case of giving contracts to Chittaranjan Locomotive Works has been constituted; and

(b) if so, its composition and terms of reference?

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

(b) In October, 1966, the Railway Board had appointed a Committee consisting of the Additional Members, Works, Mechanical and Finance, to enquire into the procedural lapses in this case. No. specific terms of reference were prescribed, as the Committee was directed to go into the matter and decide upon the terms of reference themselves. Subsequently, on receipt of the 72nd Report of the Public Accounts Committee suggesting that a representative of Audit should also be associated with this body, the Additional Deputy Auditor General of India (Railways) has also been included in the Committee. As directed by the Public Accounts Committee the particular transaction is to be examined in detail by the Committee, keeping in view the Public Accounts Committee's observations on the case.

**Accident of Varanasi-Bhatni Passenger Train**

1398. Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:  
Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri K. N. Pandey:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 7 Down Varanasi Bhatni Passenger train met with a serious accident following a gale on the 13th May, 1967 between Bhatni and Piyokola Stations of the North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the total number of casualties involved; and

(c) the total amount of loss caused to the railway property?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) On 13.5.1967, while 72 Down Varanasi-Bhatni passenger train was running between Peokol and Bhatni stations it was caught in a

violent storm as a result of which all the 11 coaches of the train got derailed and capsized.

(b) In this accident, 27 persons sustained injuries of whom 23 were discharged immediately after medical aid, 3 after further observation in the Railway hospital and the remaining 1 refused admission in the hospital.

(c) The cost of damage to railway property was estimated at approximately Rs. 3,31,600.

**Supply of Equipment to Bhilai Steel Plant**

1391. Shri Kartik Oraon: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of the six blast furnace Complex of Bhilai Steel Plant has been delayed due to non-supply of the equipment and structures by the Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Ranchi, as per stipulated order; and

(b) if so, (i) the break-up of the equipment and structures supplied as against the orders as per schedule of delivery; (ii) the steps taken to fulfil the commitment; (iii) whether Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. is subject to pay a liquidated damage to Bhilai Steel Plant?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Casting and Forging Work of N.E.C. Ranchi**

1398. Shri Kartik Oraon: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the casting and forging work of Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Ranchi is reasonably adequate to meet its own requirements and