

the rest of the day the licensed porters in the group carry passengers' luggage. The groups are rotated periodically.

The question of enhancing the rate of remuneration paid to the licensed porters for handling of parcels is also under consideration.

#### EXPORT OF PEPPER

2963. SHRI VISWANATHA MENON : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Market for pepper is facing heavy competition because of pepper production in Indonesia and Brazil; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken so as to stabilize the price of the Indian Pepper ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Efforts are being made to reach agreement among producing developing countries on export prices. Special steps through publicity and other such measures have also been taken on hand by the Export Promotion Council for Spices for promoting the exports of Indian pepper.

#### OVER-BRIDGE AT PUNNURANNI, KERALA

2964. SHRI VISWANATHA MENON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct an over-bridge at the railway crossing at Punnuranni, Cochin (Kerala); and

(b) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEES FROM RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION DEPARTMENT, ALLAHABAD

2965. SHRI VISWANATHA MENON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether thirty employees who

were employed for more than six years in Railway Electrification Department, Allahabad, had been transferred to Northern Railway on the 29th March, 1967;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from these employees for pay protection;

(c) if so, the action taken on that representations; and

(d) whether it is a fact that such employees transferred to the North Eastern Railway on the same day have already been granted pay protection ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### UNEMPLOYED ENGINEERS

2966. SHRI VISWANATHA MENON : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to give loans to the unemployed engineers and graduates so as to help them to start some small-scale industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) No, Sir. However, if any of the Engineers and graduates want to start a small scale industry, every assistance that is normally given to a small scale unit would certainly be given to him.

(b) Does not arise.

#### ZINC SMELTER PLANT NEAR UDAIPUR

2967. SHRI D. C. SHARMA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Zinc Smelter Plant near Udaipur has created a problem of raw material, for its production during the last two months of its trial run has exceeded the plant capacity by 20 per cent; and