

dent near Koratty on the Southern Railway recently and if so, the finding thereof ;

(b) the total cost of damages due to that accident including the damages to the crops in the neighbourhood on account of the fire caused by the accident ; and

(c) whether compensation is proposed to be paid to the ryots and others in the locality who have lost their crop due to the fire ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes. The enquiry committee have not yet finalised their report.

(b) The cost of damage on account of this accident was estimated at approximately Rs. 1,96,045 including Rs. 1,300 for damage to paddy crops.

(c) Yes, on merits of each case when claims are received.

Conversion of Railway Lines into Broad Gauge

9820. SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering conversion of all metre and narrow gauge routes into broad gauge for the sake of uniformity ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the number of lines/route and track kilometers to be converted into broad gauge during the next five years, Zone-wise ; and

(d) the names of the lines to be taken for such conversion in South Zone ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No decision has been taken yet.

(d) Does not arise.

Exports in Post-Devaluation Period

9821. SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry attempted to relate the figures of export with the export duties imposed since the devaluation of the rupee ;

(b) whether it is correct that the imposition of export duty on Rs. 2 per kilo on the 6th June, 1968 reduced the export of tea for the following six months to 93,827 thousand kilos compared with 117,705 thousand kilos in the same months of 1965 ;

(c) whether an improvement of about 10,000 thousand kilos arose in the following six months compared with the same months of the previous year after the revision of the duty on the 11th November, 1966 ;

(d) whether a further improvement of nearly 35,000 thousand kilos arise from further revision on the 25th May, 1967 for the following six months comparatively with the previous year ;

(e) whether consequent on the Devaluation of sterling on the 19th November, 1967 the export for the following three months have fallen from 66,568 thousand kilos of the previous year to 48,070 thousand kilos ; and

(f) steps Government propose to take to neutralise the effect of the £ Devaluation ?

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

(b) to (d). It would not be correct to attribute the fluctuations in exports solely to the factors mentioned in each case. Other factors also played their part.

(e) and (f). Fluctuations in exports over short periods do not always correctly represent the actual trends. Government would therefore like to watch the position for some time more.

केलों का निर्यात

9822. श्री रा० स्व० विद्यार्थी : क्या वारिज्य मन्त्री 28 जुलाई, 1967 के अतारंभित प्रश्न संख्या 7279 के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार को 1 अप्रैल, 1966 से 31 मार्च, 1968 तक की अवधि में केलों के निर्यात से कितनी हानि हुई ;