

stituent Divisions were given option either :

- (i) to continue wherever they were working ; or
- (ii) to seek transfer to any other Division or the Headquarters of the new Railway ; or
- (iii) to seek transfer to the residual Central Railway or Southern Railway, as the case may be.

The non-gazetted staff of other Divisions of the Central and Southern Railways as well as of other zonal railways were also at the same time given the option to seek transfer to the South-Central Railway. There was, therefore, no reversal of any decision.

South Central Railway Zone

10008. SHRI MOHAMMED SHERIFF.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amounts allotted, project-wise upto the end of 1968-69 for the setting up of the South Central Railway Zone with Headquarters at Secunderabad ;

(b) the expenditure so far incurred, project-wise, on construction of staff quarters, new administrative building and acquisition of land, and physical progress of each project made so far ; and

(c) the advantages envisaged in coming to the decision of setting up of this new Railway Zone ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI C. M. POONACHA) :

(Rs. in crores)

(a) Construction of Quarters.	—Rs. 2.52
New Administrative Building and other office accommodation.	—Rs. 1.24
Land acquisition.	—Rs. 0.10
	—————
Total :	Rs. 3.86

(b) Expenditure so far incurred :

Construction of staff quarters.	—Rs. 2.39
New Administrative Building and other office accommodation.	—Rs. 0.78
Land acquisition.	—Rs. 0.07
	—————
Total :	Rs. 3.24

Physical Progress of each Project :

Construction of quarters.	98%
New Administrative Building and other office accommodation.	43%
Land acquisition.	75%

(c) The South Central Railway has been carved out of the erstwhile Central and Southern Railways where the workload was heavy, in the interest of operational administrative efficiency.

Underground water Survey in Srikakulam District

10099. SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an underground water survey was conducted recently in Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) if so, whether any report had been submitted to Government ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The survey carried out by the Geological Survey of India has revealed that digging of large diameter open wells and filter point wells in Amudalavala and Salur, moderately yielding borewells in Uddanam and large open wells in Chipurapalli areas is possible.

Steel Furniture

10010. SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(e) whether it is a fact that steel required for the manufacture of steel furniture

is scarce despite the slump in the steel market ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b). The steel furniture industry requires steel mainly in the form of sheets of sizes 16 gauge and thinner. Flat products like sheets and plates are in short supply in the country and the demand for them far exceeds the supply. There is slump in the steel market only for such non-flat categories as bars, rods and structurals and not for the flat types of steel required by the steel furniture industry.

Overbridge on Railway Level Crossing in Tirunelveli Jn.

10011. SHRI S. XAVIER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct an overbridge on the Railway level-crossing in Tirunelveli Junction ;

(b) if so, when the work on the project is likely to commence ;

(c) the amount which has been allotted for the purpose ; and

(d) when the construction is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) to (d). In January, 1967, the Government of Madras had tentatively proposed construction of a road overbridge in replacement of existing level crossing at Tirunelveli, and accordingly the general arrangement Plan was prepared by the Railway and sent to the State Government in September, 1967.

No firm decision has, however, been communicated by the State Government so far ; and so the scheme could not be progressed further. As soon as the State Government take a final decision, indicate necessary priority together with allocation of funds towards Road authority's share of the cost of the work, the Railway will correspondingly take appropriate action in the execution of railway's portion of the work of bridge structure,

Export of Sitar

10012. SHRI P. K. DEO :
SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :
SHRI D. N. DEB :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sitars being exported annually by India ;

(b) the names of the countries to which the are being exported ; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange being earned thereby ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) to (c). Separate statistics of exports of Sitar are not maintained. A statement, showing countrywise exports of string musical instruments (including sitars) during the years 1965-66, 1966-67 and 1967-68 (April, 1967 to January, 1968) is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—1220/68.*]

Shortage of Scooter tyres in Delhi

10013. SHRI M. L. SONDHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi has been given a meagre quota of only 200 scooter tyres against its monthly requirement of 5000 tyres ;

(b) whether there are already about 70,000 persons in the waiting list for the purchase of scooter tyres ;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the quota for the capital to substantial number and ensure its fair distribution ;

(d) the reasons for the shortage and whether there is some malpractices at the end of manufacturers ; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to increase the supply of Scooter tyres ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a), to (c). No, Sir. Delhi Administration has envisaged the requirement of scooter tyres to the extent of about 68,000 nos. p.a. or say about 5000 nos. per month. This is