

(c) the extent to which the recessionary trend in the wagons manufacturing industry is likely to be checked; and

(d) whether Government propose to give more incentive for the export of wagons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Negotiations are under way with several countries for export of wagons and it is hoped that more orders would be possible to secure.

(b) and (c). On the basis of export orders on hand and Indian Railway's demand for 1968-69 it is expected that the installed capacity in the wagon industry would be fully utilised.

(d) The assistance allowed to the wagon industry is considered on case to case basis.

DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT

3696. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "*Patriot*" of the 13th February, 1968 wherein the Chairman of the Durgapur Steel Plant is reported to have stated that the Company was losing Rs. 8 to Rs. 9 lakhs a month due to recession and corrupt practices in the project;

(b) whether the Chairman of the project has further stated that the project was ill-conceived and the administration was too heavy;

(c) the investment made by Government in the project; and

(d) whether Government propose to take an initiative to set right the working of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The news-item appearing in the "*Patriot*" of the 13th February, 1968 relates to the Durgapur Projects Ltd., an Undertaking of the Government of West Bengal and not to Durgapur Steel Plant.

EXPORT PRICES OF JUTE GOODS

3697. SHRI D. N. PATODIA :
SHRI R. BARUA :
SHRI RABI RAY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sounded the Government of Pakistan for talks on joint efforts to check the fall in the export prices of jute goods; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. There has however been an informal exchange of views on the question of price stability between the India and Pakistan Delegations to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development currently meeting in New Delhi.

TRAFFIC APPRENTICES OF NORTHERN RAILWAY

3698. SHRI VISHWANATHA MENON :
SHRI K. RAMANI :
SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5470 on the 22nd December, 1967 and state :

(a) whether Government have since considered the memorandum sent by the Traffic Apprentices of the Northern Railway; and

(b) if not, the reason for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b). The matter is still receiving consideration of the appropriate authorities.

CLOSING OF NARROW GAUGE LINES IN GUJARAT

3699. SHRI D. R. PARMAR :
SHRI RAMACHANDRA J. AMIN :
SHRI R. K. AMIN :
SHRI P. N. SOLANKI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :