

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

RAILWAY CONTRACTORS

1868. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to check the malpractices by the Railway Contractors and to improve their efficiency;

(b) whether Government have created any agency to check the growth of malpractices in contracts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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

is taken to award contracts to parties with requisite financial and technical ability. The contract is always executed in accordance with standardised conditions of contract, which give ample powers to Railway Administrations to determine and terminate the contract if any undesirable practice is observed or if the progress of work is not to their satisfaction. Whenever any malpractice comes to notice, technical or financial, the contractor is placed on the list of parties with which business is banned for short-term or long-term depending on the merit of the case.

(b) Railways' technical inspecting staff intensively check the quality of work. Quantity of work executed is also checked in Drawing and Paying Offices. In addition, the Vigilance Branch personnel test-check the quality of work done in the field. The checking work done in the Paying and Drawing Offices is test-checked occasionally.

(c) Details are as furnished in reply to items (a) and (b) above.

HINDUSTAN MOTORS

1869. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :

SHRI GANESH GHOSH :

SHRI BHAGABAN DAS :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the collaboration agreement between the Hindustan Motors and the U.K. firm of car-makers is still valid;

(b) whether it is going to be renewed;

(c) whether the Hindustan Motors have applied for any other collaboration agreement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The firm have not applied for its renewal.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

PASSENGER COACHES

1870. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :

SHRI GANESH GHOSH :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passenger coaches built for export during 1964-67; and

(b) the number of coaches exported ?

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

(b). No export order has been secured so far by the Railways' production units. M/s Jessop & Co. Ltd.; Calcutta, however, during 1965 secured an order for 33 Metre Gauge coaches from Burma out of which 10 coaches have been built so far and 4 coaches are likely to be shipped by the end of February, 1968.

IMPACT OF DEVALUATION OF POUND STERLING ON COIR EXPORTS

1871. SHRIMATI SUSEELA

GOPALAN :

SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the impact of devaluation of sterling on coir exports ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : The devaluation of the pound sterling is not likely to affect adversely coir exports. On a review of coir exports, the export duty on coir yarn has been reduced from 25% to 15% *ad valorem* and the export duty on other coir products abolished altogether with effect from the 7th February, 1968.