

- (2) Improve quality of silkworm races and evolving high yielding races for higher productivity;
- (3) Abolition of import duty on raw silk;
- (4) Maintenance of buffer stocks of imported and indigenous silk by the Central Silk Board for distribution to the manufacturer-exporters;
- (5) Reduction of airfreight on silk fabrics for export; and
- (6) Effectively publicise Indian silks in foreign markets.

The above proposals which were received by Government only recently are under consideration.

STATEMENT BY ISRAEL'S COMMERCE MINISTER

1937. SHRI ANBUCHAZHIAN :
SHRI DEIVEEKAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report that the Commerce Minister of Israel has stated that his Government can sell to India, fertilizer, insecticides and agricultural machinery;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has shown his Government's willingness to purchase iron, steel, rubber etc. from India; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) There are no special restrictions on trade with Israel and any specific offers from Israel can be considered by Indian parties concerned in the ordinary course.

STOPPAGE OF TRAIN AT SONAILI

1938. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a demand for a passenger stop at Sonaili Station in Katihar District;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend the passenger train running between Radhikapur and Barsoi to Katihar to facilitate the passengers of Sonaili ?

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

(b) and (c). With effect from 20th February, 1968, 123 Up/124 Dn. Manihari-ghat-Katihar passenger trains have been extended to run to and from Radhikapur and stoppages have been provided at Sonaili station by these trains.

LIGHTING ARRANGEMENT IN FIRST CLASS COMPARTMENTS

1939. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the lighting arrangements in the First Class Compartments in the Indian Railways on many main lines are unsatisfactory; and

(b) if so, the action taken to improve the same in view of increased burglaries in trains ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) There have been some cases of deficiencies and defects in the lights in the first class compartments.

(b) A number of counter measures have been taken to overcome the difficulty of proper maintenance of train lighting, which are listed below :--

(i) Improvement in the standard of maintenance of train lighting equipments at terminal stations.

(ii) Inspection to ensure that the lights and fans and other amenities in the trains are in working order before the trains leave the starting stations.

(iii) Ensure that the lights, fans and other amenities are maintained in working order *en route* by Coach attendants who should attend to minor defects like replacement of bulbs, brushes, fuses etc.

- (iv) Frequent inspections by Administrative Officers to ensure strict compliance of various instructions issued in this regard.
- (v) Introduction of certain anti-theft and anti-pilferage measures to reduce unauthorised interference with the equipment.
- (vi) Review, re-organisation and rationalization of the maintenance facilities.
- (vii) Procurement of adequate quantities of spares of satisfactory standard, with special emphasis on vital items.
- (viii) Adoption of security measures in conjunction with the Railway Protection Force to ensure safety of equipment in the coaches.

The problem is being tackled by adopting all possible measures so that the amenities of lights are maintained in good working order.

THEFT OF RAILWAY PROPERTY

1940. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the cases of theft of Railway Property during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to check the crime and also to bring the culprits to book ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes. There has been a slight increase in the incidence of thefts of Railway Property. The recovery of stolen property has, however, registered an improvement.

(b) The following measures have been/are being taken to check the incidence of thefts of Railway Property :—

- (1) Plain clothes Railway Protection Force staff are deputed to collect crime intelligence with a view to tracking down known criminals.
- (2) Special detective staff are detailed to collect intelligence regarding

receivers of stolen property and raids are organised on their shops with the assistance of the Police.

- (3) Zonal Headquarters' as well as Railway Board's Central Crime Bureau staff are deployed to conduct surprise raids to effect red-handed capture of the culprits.
- (4) Basic security measures are provided at all Workshops and stores.
- (5) Close co-ordination between the Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police and Police Officers is also maintained to deal with the criminals and receivers of stolen property.
- (6) Anti-theft measures exist in the shape of locking of compartments, welding and encasing electrical equipment, cleating and troughing of under frame wiring, shifting of theft prone equipment inside the coaches, so as to make their removal difficult by anti-social elements.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

1941. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many industrial units in the various Industrial Estates have either been closed or are running under loss due to lack of supply of raw materials and marketing of the goods produced;

(b) if so, the number of such sick units and the steps Government propose to take to help them; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the question of specifying the products in such industrial units and to create an agency for the purchase and sale of the products ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected from the concerned authorities and will be placed on the Table of the House.