

(b) for how long they are going to be kept by the Heavy Engineering Corporation; and

(c) the total amount of deputation allowances and other allowances, over and above those paid to the regular staff, being paid by the Corporation to these deputationists annually?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh): (a) 298.

(b) The period of deputation varies from case to case depending upon the exigencies of requirements of the Corporation. Extension of period of deputation is allowed only when it is not possible, in the interest of work, to replace the deputationist.

(c) 292 deputationists have joined in the Corporation's scales of pay and are paid salaries and allowances as are payable to regular staff of the Corporation. The deputation allowances paid to the other 46 deputationists amounts to Rs. 24,336/- a year.

मध्य प्रदेश में कपड़ा मिलों में काम करने वाले श्रमिक

2260. श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यप :  
श्री बड़े :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में कपास की उपज में कमी हो जाने से जो श्रमिक बेरोजगार हो गये हैं, उन्हें कोई अन्य रोजगार देने के लिये क्या सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से अनुरोध किया है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो तत्सम्बन्धी स्वीकार क्या है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री ( श्री मनुभाई शाह ) :

(क) और (ख). मध्य प्रदेश में कपास की उपज में कमी हो जाने के कारण कपड़ा मिल के श्रमिकों के बेकार हो जाने की कोई सूचना

नहीं मिली है; और श्रमिकों को कोई अन्य रोजगार देने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

Loading Time for 4-wheeled Wagons

2261. Shri Himatsingka:  
Shri Rameshwar Tanti:  
Shri B. K. Das:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present restriction of 5-hour daylight loading time is to be relaxed, particularly for 4-wheeled wagons, in view of the fact that this time has been found to be extremely inadequate for satisfactory loading of coal; and

(b) if so, when?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):

(a) and (b). Prior to 1st February, 1963, a free time of 5 hours was allowed for loading of coal in all types of wagons. On receipt of representations from the trade and with effect from 1st February, 1963, the free time for BOX wagons was enhanced to 10 hours in the case of a group of 20 BOX wagons or more placed at a time. Later, with effect from 17th February, 1964, 7 working hours were permitted for groups of 11 to 19 BOX wagons.

In the case of 4-wheeled wagons, the free time continues to be 5 hours.

There is no proposal for any liberalization in it.

Trade Agreement with U.S.S.R.

2262. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 332 on the 19th November, 1965 and state:

(a) whether Government have since concluded a trade agreement with U.S.S.R. for which a Soviet Trade Delegation recently visited India; and

(b) if so, the main terms of the agreement?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Not yet, Sir. The trade negotiations with the U.S.S.R. Trade Delegation who are already here are proceeding according to agreed schedules and are likely to be concluded shortly.

#### Diesel Locomotives

2263. Shri B. K. Das:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether in the face of uncertain prospects of import of diesel from abroad and the critical position in respect of foreign exchange, the Railway Board still maintains its earlier decision to discontinue steam locomotives and replace them by diesel locomotives completely by 1970-71?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): A statement is given below:

#### Statement

The Railway Board have not taken any decision to discontinue steam locomotives and replace them by diesel locomotives completely by 1970-71. In this connection an extract from the answer given to Starred Question No. 101 in the Lok Sabha on 20th November, 1964, is reproduced below:—

“(c) and (d). It is not possible at this stage to state the time by which a complete change-over to electric locomotive manufacture may take place at Chittaranjan. There are possibilities, however of the manufacture of steam locomotives at Chittaranjan being tapered off gradually as and when the Indian Railways are able to:

- (i) switch over the production facilities at Chittaranjan to the manufacture of electric locomotives and equipment for them and other desired and appropriate purposes; and

- (ii) step up the production of electric and diesel locomotives to the level necessary to meet all needs.”

There is no material change in the position as explained above and the Railways intend to taper off the steam locomotive production only in gradual stages to suit the production schedule of electric locomotives in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works.

The Railways have a fleet of about 10,800 steam locomotives at present, of which about 2,900 locomotives have done over 40 years of service. Even at the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan (1970-71) after allowing for the retirement of the old and unserviceable locomotives, the Railways will have about 9,800 steam locos in service and this will still constitute a very high proportion of the total fleet of all the locomotives—steam, diesel and electric put together. No steam locomotive is being retired or replaced by diesel or electric locomotives unless it has outlived fully its useful and economic life.

As regards the use of diesel oil by the Railways, it has been assessed that the requirement of diesel oil as a result of the extension of dieselisation on important routes of the railway system will be of the order of 6.5 lakh tonnes only per annum at the end of the Fourth Plan, which, as compared to the anticipated indigenous availability of about 47 lakh tonnes in all the Indian Refineries in that year, will represent only about 14 per cent of the total availability of this fuel. The Railways' demand for diesel oil is thus but a fraction of the total Diesel oil demand of the country.

#### B.G. Outlet to Sahibganj Loop

2264. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Assam Government have requested the Central Govern-