

Balancing of Indo-Afghan Trade

9050. SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Afghan nationals registered in India under the various categories of importers and what privileges they enjoy in India ;

(b) whether any of these Afghan importers established their permanent offices in India ; and if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether Government propose to place some restrictions on the movement of these Afghan traders in India and they have to keep informed of their movement to any of the Government agency and if so, the name of the Government Agency ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No restrictions are proposed to be imposed on the movement of Afghan traders in India. Like all other foreigners in the country, these traders are required to report their movements to the local Registration Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939.

Indo-Afghan Trade

9051. SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to Closure of trade routes between India and Afghanistan due to the conflict between India and Pakistan or between Pakistan and Afghanistan, a huge quantity of goods was confiscated by Pakistan ;

(b) if so, whether Government have calculated the losses suffered on that account ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) As a result of the closure by Pakistan of the traditional land route of Indo-Afghan trade, it is possible that some consignments belonging to Indian nationals were stranded

and confiscated by Pakistan, but so far no such case has been brought to the notice of Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Indo-Afghan Trade

9052. SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that after 1959, a category of traders in Indo-Afghan trade was created who were asked to export first and then to balance their exports by way of equivalent imports ;

(b) if so, the number of categories of Indo-Afghan traders and the total number of traders registered with Government under each of the categories ; and

(c) the approximate turn-over of the Indo-Afghan trade ?

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

(b) Three categories of traders are allowed to participate in Indo-Afghan trade. These are (1) approved importers who participated in Indo-Afghan trade during the 4 year period ending June 1956, (2) firms nominated by the Royal Afghan Government, and (3) traders who have got themselves registered as "new comers". Information regarding the number of traders falling in each of these three categories is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The total turn-over of Indo-Afghan trade for the years 1966-67 and 1967-68 (April-December) was of the order of Rs. 1108 lakhs and Rs. 1111 lakhs, respectively. Statistics beyond December 1967 are not available at present.

Suits filed under Payment of Wages Act on N.E. Railway

9053. SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of suits filed under payment of Wages Act in each Division of the North Eastern Railway during the year from 1965 to 1967 ;

(b) the number of cases decided during the above period ;