

HINDUSTAN MACHINE TOOLS LTD.

2919. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. has decided to appoint three agents in the U.S.A. and Canada in a promotional effort to boost the export of machine tools to these countries;

(b) if so, the names of firms which are to be appointed as agents; and

(c) the total remuneration to be paid to these agents ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Two Agents have so far been appointed and they are Messrs. Global Development Design, California U.S.A. and Messrs Eastern Machines Incorporated, Maryland, Washington, U.S.A. The Agency arrangements between Hindustan Machine Tools Limited, Bangalore with the above mentioned parties are in the nature of commercial contracts and it is not considered appropriate to divulge the details of remuneration etc. paid to these Agents another terms of the Agency arrangements.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

2920. **SHRI BABURAO PATEL :**
SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of accidents on each Railway between 1st March, 1967 and 31st March, 1968;

(b) the number of persons who were killed and injured and the amount of compensation paid to them or to their heirs;

(c) the total cost of damage to the railway property;

(d) a break-up of the accidents cause-wise; and

(e) the salient details of the urgent measures taken to prevent similar accidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Railway-wise figures of train accidents in the categories of collisions, derailments, trains running into road traffic at level crossings and fires in trains that occurred between 1-3-1967 to 31-3-1968 are as under :—

<i>Railway</i>	<i>No. of accidents</i>
Central	111
Eastern	65
Northern	161
North Eastern	168
Northeast Frontier	167
Southern	144
South Central	128
South Eastern	122
Western	128
TOTAL	1194

(b) Two hundred and thirty four persons were killed and 1,045 injured in these accidents.

The total amount of compensation paid under Indian Railways Act and Fatal Accidents Act from March, 1967 to March, 1968 was Rs. 5,14,283.

Similar information relating to the amount of compensation paid under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 in the case of railway employees killed or injured in train accidents is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Cost of damage to railway property involved in these accidents was estimated at approximately Rs. 1,59,18,350.

(d) Of the 1194 accidents, 725 were due to failure of railway staff, 143 due to failure of other than railway staff, 150 due to failure of railway equipment, 118 were accidental in nature 12 due to sabotage and the causes of 20 accidents could not be established. The causes of 26 cases are under finalisation.

(e) The Safety Campaign has been further intensified to bring home to the

staff particularly those connected with the running of trains the imperative need of observing the prescribed rules and procedures meticulously. Spot checks have been intensified to see that staff do not violate the safety rules and indulge in short-cut methods.

REMOVAL OF ALARM CHAIN FROM TRAINS

2921. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that alarm chains have been removed from the trains running on Jhansi-Manikpur and Banda-Kanpur lines;

(b) whether this would not help the dacoits with whom this area is infested;

(c) what alternative protective precautions are taken on these lines after depriving the passengers of the protection of the alarm chains;

(d) in what other sectors has this new idea of removing alarm chains been enforced so far or is going to be enforced in the near future; and

(e) the specific reasons for trying out this dangerous experiment at the risk of the passengers, particularly the women passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) The alarm chains were not removed but were temporarily blanked off from 1-4-68 to 30-4-68. At present the usual alarm chain provision is operative.

(b) No case of dacoity took place on trains on the sections concerned during the period alarm chain apparatus remained blanked off.

(c) Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police staff were deputed to escort the night passenger trains when the alarm chains were blanked off.

(d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(e) The reason for blanking off alarm chains on certain trains/sections was the

very heavy misuse of alarm chain apparatus by unsocial elements for stopping trains out of course and without any justifiable reasons. This affected the running of trains including important Mail and Express trains and caused much inconvenience to the travelling public. There are standing instructions to Railways that in the interest of security of ladies travelling on trains, the alarm chains in the ladies compartments should remain operative.

HEAVY MACHINE BUILDING PROJECT, RANCHI

2922. SHRI MAHARAJ SINGH BHARATI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Heavy Machine Building Project of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited Ranchi, which had been producing 20 per cent of its rated capacity 2 years back, has now gone into full production;

(b) if so, whether this is because of Bokaro Steel Plant or due to some other reasons;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Heavy Machine Building Project is not accepting orders for the manufacture of machines from any of the factories except Bokaro Steel Plant and even if an order is accepted, it is done only on the condition that the desired machines would be manufactured after 4 years;

(d) if so, whether all these machines which could be manufactured at Ranchi are being imported from foreign countries; and

(e) whether Government have drawn up any scheme for increasing the capacity of the existing machine building plants and for setting up new factories, and if so, the broad outlines thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). A project of this nature inevitably has a long gestation period as production build-up is gradual with increased productivity taking place over a