

have been made by the main producers on the ground of statutory escalations in costs. These claims will be examined and dealt with in the normal manner.

Samples of Bidis sent to U.S.A.

5616. Shri Baswant:

Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that samples of Indian Bidis have been sent to the United States for chemical analysis with a view to ascertain if they are free from cancer-causing substances; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The result is awaited.

Fire in Dining Car

5617. Shri Braj Bihari Mehrotra:

Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:

Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:

Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:

Shri Brij Basi Lal:

Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Shri Daljit Singh:

Shri Sadhu Ram:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dining car of the Calcutta—Bombay (Via Allahabad) Mail caught fire between Banapur and Pagdhal Stations on the Itarsi-Bhusaval section of the Central Railway on the 24th April, 1966;

(b) if so, the causes of the accident; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes, but on 23-4-1966.

(b) the cause of the accident is under investigation by a Committee of senior scale officers.

(c) Necessary action will be taken after the results of the investigation are known.

Import of Nickel Anodes

5618. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of lifting the ban on the import of nickel anodes by the actual users has been reconsidered by Government;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) the basis on which such materials received under the Colombo Plan are distributed?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the sufficient manufacturing capacity of the item in the country, it was not considered necessary to lift the ban.

(c) The distribution of the imported nickel under Colombo Plan Aid is made by Directorate General of Technical Development and Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries. The former make allocations to consuming units borne on their books who import their quotas. The latter makes allocation to State Directors of Industries who in turn distribute to the small scale units under their control. The bulk import of requirements of small scale units is made by the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries through Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation. In both the cases the import is arranged through the Indian agents of Canadian Suppliers of nickel.