

the production targets of the Woollen Branches for 1968 are not affected and that financial resources generated by the Woollen Branches are retained for utilisation by them so as to maintain their production targets.

India's Exports

465. SHRI S. R. DAMANI:
SHRI S. S. KOTHARI:
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH
SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) India's export performance during the first half of 1968 and how it compares with the corresponding periods during the years in 1965, 1966 and 1967;

(b) the value of imports upto June, 1968 and for corresponding periods in the past 3 years;

(c) whether the exports have not come upto expectations;

(d) if so, the difference between the expectations and actual exports and the areas in which it has not done well; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to boost India's exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (d). A statement showing monthwise exports and imports during the first half of 1968, as compared to the corresponding periods of 1967, 1966 and 1965, is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-1383|68*]. It will be observed therefrom that India's exports during the first five-months period i.e. January-May, 1968 at Rs. 507 crores were higher by Rs. 27 crores compared to the corresponding period in 1967. The exports during April-May 1968 at Rs. 211.17 crores were higher by about 3.7 per cent compared to April-May, 1964, the best corresponding period in the recent past.

(e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-1383|68*].

Indian's Trade with Afghanistan

466. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's trade with Afghanistan has been progressing according to the agreement during the past 12 months; and

(b) if so, whether an upward revision is proposed in the total quantum of yearly trade between India and Afghanistan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The trade arrangement for the next year viz. 1968-69, will be discussed and finalised shortly between the two Governments. It is not possible to indicate at this stage the quantum of trade exchanges between the two countries for the coming year.

Hindustan Steel Limited

467. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to refer to the paper laid on the Table of the House in the last Session on the performance of the Hindustan Steel Limited and state:

(a) whether the scheme of quarterly performance reviews suggested under para 58 has been found helpful in increasing the efficiency and working of the Hindustan Steel Limited;

(b) whether the Rourkela fertilizer plant has been facilitated to work to full capacity as suggested in para 59(i);

(c) the expenditure involved in creating additional facilities and in installation of four additional soaking

pits at Durgapur as referred to in para 59(v) and (vi); and

(d) whether these additions are meant for continuing and long term use?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) The system of quarterly performance reviews has been found useful and effective in focussing attention on various problems and key areas.

(b) The setting up of the Naphtha Reforming Unit which would lead to fuller utilisation of the installed capacity of the Rourkela Fertiliser Plant is nearing completion. The unit is expected to start shortly.

(c) The estimated cost of the four additional soaking pits for the Durgapur Steel Plant is in the region of Rs. 11.0 million. The information regarding expenditure of facilities for the production of special steels is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Coal Carrying Wagons from Kothagudem to Hussainsagar and Vijayawada Power Houses

468. **SHRI S. R. DAMANI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement by the Andhra Chief Minister in the Legislative Assembly on the 25th June, 1968 that 194 wagons carrying coal from Kothagudem to Hussainsagar and Vijayawada power houses were lost in transit since 1961;

(b) whether such cases were reported and claims made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to the Railways all these years;

(c) in how many cases claims were paid and the amount thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Railways to fix responsibility for the loss?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) Yes; but the Chief Minister is reported to have stated that 192 wagons were not received at destinations.

(b) and (c). As full particulars of the wagons referred to by the Chief Minister in his statement in the State Legislature were not available, enquiries were made with the power house authorities who furnished particulars of only 113 wagonloads of coal booked during the years 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1966 and allegedly not received at destination. Out of these 133 wagonload consignments, no claims had been preferred in respect of 72. In respect of 10 consignments relating to bookings of 1962 and 1963 claims had been preferred in 1965 and they were repudiated for the reason that the claims had been preferred after the expiry of the period of six months as stipulated in Section 78B of the Indian Railways Act. In lieu of the remaining 31 wagonload consignments, an equivalent number of unconnected coal wagons had been delivered.

(d) No staff responsibility had been fixed so far.

Financial Assistance for Spinning Mills

469. **SHRI A. SREEDHARAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have under consideration a scheme to provide increased financial assistance to spinning mills;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof; and

(c) when the proposal is likely to be finalised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No, Sir. However, a stock retention scheme for cotton yarn of the South Indian mills is under consideration.