

(घ) बाढ़ से इन स्थानों पर हुई क्षति का अनुमान क्या है ?

रेलवे मंत्री (श्री चं० मु० पुनाचा): (क)

और (ख): जी हां। नौ स्थानों पर रेल यातायात अस्त-व्यस्त हो गया था। जहां जहां आवश्यक जान पड़ा, रेलवे लाइनों की हिफाजत के लिए बचाव के उपाय किये गये हैं ;

(ग) सवाल नहीं उठता ;

(घ) लगभग 1.59 लाख रुपये।

STANDARDISATION OF ALLOYS AND SPECIAL STEEL PRODUCED IN INDIA

5959. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD:

SHRI N. SHIVAPPA:

SHRI K. M. Koushik:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that alloys and special steel produced in the country are not according to the standards and this has made the products unpopular and less competitive in the Indian markets;

(b) whether the products are facing similar handicaps in foreign markets also;

(c) the total production of these products in India and how much of it is being consumed in India and how much of it is exported;

(d) the total imports of these products every year; and

(e) whether steps have been taken to standardise these products to increase their competitiveness.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) No, Sir. It is not a fact that all the alloys and special steels produced in the country are of sub-standard quality. Generally, the quality of the products of alloy steels plants is quite satisfactory, but the products of some others may not be of the same standard. The question of materials becoming unpopular and less

competitive due to substandard quality does not, therefore, arise.

(b) Does not arise, as no exports of these categories of steel have been made to foreign countries.

(c) Information is not readily available.

(d) The total imports of tool, alloy and special steel during the last three years have been as under:

Year	Quantity M/T	Value (Rs. in thousand)
1965—66	129,459	204,931
1966—67	85,552	235,054
1967—68	81,704	271,353

} Post
} Devalu-
} ation.

(e) The Indian Standards Institute has standardised most of the alloy and special steels and has issued a number of pamphlets. Indian manufacturers have been advised to manufacture such steel according to ISI specifications.

EXPORTS TO LATIN AMERICA

5960. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our exports to Latin America had fallen down considerably during the year 1967-68 and, if so, the value thereof; and

(b) the reasons for this decline and the measures being taken to improve the position?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):

(a) Yes, Sir. Our exports declined from Rs. 9.94 crores in 1966-67 to Rs. 5.44 crores during 1967-68.

(b) Jute goods form the bulk of our exports to these countries. Jute industry has in the last few years developed greatly in Brazil and Peru. Under the LAFTA (Latin American Free Trade Association) Treaty, their jute goods enter the other Latin American countries free of import duties and this has affected our exports adversely. Government are taking all necessary measures to diversify our exports to Latin America. Trade Agreements have re-