

**Accumulation of Handloom Stocks**

1090. **Shri M. Malaichami:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press report in the "Hindu" dated the 31st December, 1965 that the Madras State Government has to retain the sales-tax at more than one point as the Union Government has not agreed to reimburse their loss at a point beyond the first sale;

(b) if so, whether the levying of the sales-tax at more than one point has resulted in the glut of handloom goods in the foreign markets; and

(c) what steps have been taken to dispose of the accumulated handloom stock in order to avail the industry from stagnation and the workers getting unemployed?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):**

(a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India have given additional credit facilities to the Madras State Apex Society for marketing of handloom cloth to the extent of Rs. 100 lakhs against the earlier limit of Rs. 70 lakhs. The Madras Government gave an advance of Rs. 50 lakhs to the Apex Society for increased procurement from the Primary Societies. The State Government also allowed additional rebate on wholesale sales of handloom cloth by the Cooperative societies for a period of 4 months from the 1st June, 1965.

**Madras-Tuticorin B.G. Rail Link**

1091. **Shri M. Malaichami:**  
**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Union Government has been drawn to a press report in the 'Hindu' dated 31-12-1965 that the cargo traffic at Tuticorin would go upto 2.7 million

tons by 1975-76 and that the traffic generated would justify the proposal for a broad gauge railway link from Madras to Tuticorin via Tiruchirappalli and Madurai; and

(b) if so, whether the construction of the broad gauge railway link would be taken up during the Fourth Five Year Plan so that the estimated flow of goods to the Tuticorin port is ensured?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath):**

(a) Yes.

(b) Adequate spare capacity is at present available on the metre gauge lines serving Tuticorin Port which could further be augmented by diesel traction and improved signalling. However, the long term rail traffic requirements of the Tuticorin Port as well as of other developments in the region are being evaluated in regard to the commodities, the volume and pace of growth and the characteristics of lead (whether long, medium or short). Depending on the results of these studies the decisions on the best means of providing the requisite additional capacity for the Port as and when required will be taken in time to allow for the physical construction period of new facilities.

**Engineering Industries in Bombay**

1092. **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Supply and Technical Development be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to supply zinc and other scarce raw materials for Kamanis' Group of Engineering Industries in Bombay to prevent lay-off of thousands of workmen; and

(b) why this highly advanced machinery and know-how and skilled personnel is not taken over by Government for production in the Ordnance Factories, especially the Metal and Alloys Section?