

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

(a) As a result of this accident two persons died on the spot and another two sustained injuries of whom one succumbed to his injuries subsequently.

(b) and (c). The cause of the accident is under investigation.

(d) *Ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 500 was made immediately to the family of each of the deceased. Payment of full compensation is under examination.

#### **Salem-Bangalore Rail Line**

**1114. Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred question No. 935 on the 19th November, 1965 and state the progress since made in the construction of the Salem-Bangalore railway line?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath):** Earthwork in formation and bridge works are progressing well. Linking of track has also commenced. An overall progress of 60% has been achieved upto end of January, 1966 on this project.

#### **Tirunelveli - Kanyakumari Trivandrum Railway Line**

**1115. Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:**  
**Shri Muthlah:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 523 on the 12th November, 1965 and state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has since examined the report of engineering and traffic surveys in respect of the railway line from Tirunelveli to Kanyakumari and then to Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter; and

(c) whether it is proposed to include this line in the Fourth Plan?

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

(a) to (c). The survey reports for

this line are expected to be submitted very shortly to the Railway Board. A decision regarding its construction will be taken after scrutiny of the Survey Reports. Construction of this line in the Fourth Plan is dependent on the funds to be made available for new lines. Construction and the priority of this line will merit among various proposals for new lines.

#### **Shortage of Cotton**

**1116. Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a serious fall in the production of raw cotton in India due to the failure of monsoons this year;

(b) whether there will be less import of cotton from abroad as a result of the foreign exchange difficulty;

(c) whether any raw cotton is coming to India under P.L. 480 this year;

(d) how Government propose to meet the shortage of cotton, if any; and

(e) whether the production of yarn and cloth is likely to suffer as a result of such shortage?

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

(a) According to the latest trade estimates the production of raw cotton in the current year (1965-66) is likely to be slightly less as compared to the production in the previous year. The likely production in 1965-66 is estimated by the trade at 56 lakh bales as compared to 57.50 lakh bales in 1964-65.

(b) Yes.

(c) No agreement for the import of cotton under P.L. 480 has been concluded so far.

(d) and (e). The slight shortfall in the availability of cotton will, if necessary, have to be made good by drawing upon the carry-over stocks.

**Retired Pensioners of Railways**

**1117. Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway pensioners have been experiencing great hardships in drawing their pension as they are to draw the same through Accountant-General's office and Treasury through Banks;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to allow the Railway pension optees to draw pensions through their nearest Railway station or Post Office; and

(c) when this facility is likely to be given to the pensioners?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Export of Foot-wear**

**1118. Shri M. R. Krishan:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the broad features of the fresh trade agreement entered with foreign countries for the export of Indian-made foot-wear during the year 1965;

(b) the countries with which the deal was affected for the first time; and

(c) the major concerns in India which have secured the orders for the supply of foot-wear?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). Government have included leather foot-wear as an item in the commodity lists entered into with most of the East European countries. There has been significant increase in the export of footwear to U.S.S.R.

(c) State Trading Corporation farm out the orders to various producers and also six other firms.

**Section Officers' Examination in Railway Board's Office**

**1119. Shri Narasimha Reddy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a number of Railway Board employees who appeared in the competitive examination for Section Officers in May, 1965 and secured as high as 66 per cent marks and had 10 years service at their credit, have not been selected or kept on the panel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the vacancies caused consequent on the selected candidates sent for training are not being filled up by the candidates who have qualified in the examination; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to fill up such vacancies and give chance to those who qualified in the examination to officiate by enlarging the selected list?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) and (b). 30 vacancies in the Section Officer's grade were to be filled on the basis of the limited competitive examination held by the Union Public Service Commission in May '65 for promotion to the Section Officer's grade in Railway Board's Office. As the selection was on competitive basis, some staff who secured an aggregate of 66 percent of the marks could not find a place in the selected list. Representations have been received from them that they should be considered for being placed in a panel to be used for future vacancies. There are also representations against the formation of such a panel. These representations are under examination.