

some injured seriously when a railway engine hit them near Kashi Railway Station (Northern Rly.) on the 30th April, 1966; and

(b) if so, the causes thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath): (a) and (b). On 30th April, 1966 Through goods train No. 815 Up was passing the site of accident at about 14.00 hrs. when a Down Light engine also reached there. On account of the passage of the goods train and appearance of the Light Engine out of curve, the gangmen could not notice the approach of Down Light engine. Though the Mate on noticing the approach of Light engine called out to his men to get away from the track, yet some of them could not hear him. As a result, two of them were killed and three sustained injuries.

Training in Small Scale Industries

1431. Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey: Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons sent abroad for training in the Small Scale Industries from Uttar Pradesh during 1965 and during the last four months; and

(b) the names of the countries to which they were sent?

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade with Cuba

1432. Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri M. Rampure:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's trade with Cuba has declined sharply in recent years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve trade relations with Cuba?

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

(b) The basic reason for the decline seems to be that Cuba is short of foreign exchange and is not able to allocate sufficient funds for purchases of jute bags from India.

(c) Various measures have been considered from time to time for improving our trade relations with Cuba. But as that country does not have sufficient foreign exchange to maintain her purchases of jute goods from India and her principal export products such as sugar, canned fruits, fish etc. are not of any interest to us, it has not been possible to reverse the declining trend in our trade with Cuba.

Surplus Stores

1433. Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Supply, Technical Development and Materials Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that very huge amount of surplus stores lie unprotected and lot of them are wasted and stolen because of lack of shed and storage facilities; and

(b) the approximate loss which the country suffers every year on this account?

The Minister of Supply, Technical Development and Materials Planning (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) The Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals deal with the disposal of surplus stores reported to them by the various Government Departments. The custodial responsibility of the stores till these are delivered to the purchasers, rests with the stock-holding departments, who have to make proper storage and security arrangements for the same. It has been observed by the DGS&D, while processing the disposal of the stores in the past, that most of these were properly maintained and necessary security arrangements were available. In the case

of bulk items like Army vehicles| cranes, some of the depots were storing them in the open yards, but security arrangements were available.

(b) Necessary information regarding the losses, if any, is being collected from the stock-holding departments and will be laid on the table of the House.

Export of Engineering Goods

1434. Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of engineering goods has increased or is likely to increase in countries where Government have bilateral trade agreements;

(b) if so, the goods which have great demand; and

(c) whether the State Trading Corporation is in a position to meet the demand of those countries, particularly the East European countries?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The exports of engineering goods to countries with which there are bilateral trade agreements have increased and are likely to increase further.

(b) Following are some of the items that are in demand in the countries with which India has bilateral trade agreements:

East Europe.—Machine Tools, Refrigerators, Air-conditioners, Dry and Storage batteries, sanitary fittings, compressors, etc.,

African and Asian countries.—Steel Semis, diesel engines, bicycles and parts, oil mill machinery, electric wires and cables, Auto and auto parts, electric fans, dry batteries etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Export of Salt to African Countries

1435. Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempt has been made to export salt to African countries;

(b) if so, whether markets have been explored therefor;

(c) which markets have been explored till now; and

(d) whether any order has been received from those countries?

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

(c) and (d). The position has been explored in regard to more than ten countries in Africa. Of these Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya are themselves producing salt and in fact export some salt. Ghana also produces salt in limited quantity and is expanding its salt production. Zambia imports substantial quantities of salt but the movement is only through Portuguese East Africa; similar reasons preclude South Rhodesia. One shipment of 500 tonnes has been made in April, 1966 to Tanzania but further shipments may not materialise as the local Government wish to encourage their own salt industry. One shipment of 4,000 tonnes has also been made to Uganda, and another repeat order of 4,000 tonnes has been received from that country and is being executed. Possibility is also being pursued of producing here, for export to Nigeria, salt of the particular specifications to which that country is accustomed.