

**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether about one hundred metric tonnes of Raw silk was imported into India in 1965-66 by the State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the special purpose, which could be served only by foreign raw silk and could not be served by indigenous raw silk; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange spent for this particular import?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). Imported raw silk is required by zari manufacturers in Surat, brocade manufacturers of Varnasi and specialised sectors of weaving industry manufacturing superior quality fabrics meant for export. In the gold lace manufacture, high uniformity of sizes is called for in the raw silk to give a good finish to the gold lace extensively used in silk handloom weaving industry. The Banaras brocades which are woven with consummate skill require raw silk of high evenness without which such a costly material cannot come up to a high standard of finish and elegance.

Similarly the half fine sarees of Chanderi, Coimbatore woven with raw silk in the warp on handlooms and fine chiffons and georgettes woven on powerlooms cannot attain high standards using uneven indigenous raw silk. Imports are also needed to fill the gap between our demand and indigenous production. The S.T.C., therefore, arranged for the import of 13,164.52 kgs. of raw silk valued at Rs. 9,11,631.72 (c.i.) during the year 1965-66.

**Train Service to and from Pandu Pindara (N. Ely.)**

**2913. Shri Maurya:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**

**Shri Bagri:**  
**Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of passengers visiting Pandu Pindara on each *Amavas* have to face great difficulty in getting trains at Pandu Pindara (Jind-Panipat line); and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to attach some additional bogies to the trains and run some special trains on such occasions?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). The 'Mela' held at Pandu Pindara, on Jind-Panipat section, on each 'Amavas' of Bikrimi Month, is essentially local in character. The three trains each way, running on the section, have been found to cater adequately to those undertaking rail journeys for participating in the Mela. Augmentation of loads of these services, much less running of special trains on the occasion, is not justified.

**Station Master at Pandu Pindara Station**

**2914. Shri Maurya:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri Bagri:**  
**Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at Pandu Pindara Railway Station a Single Station Master has been deputed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that thousands of persons going there on every *Amavas* have to face a great difficulty in getting railway tickets;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to post some additional staff at that station; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag