

Woolen Textile Mills in Amritsar

483. Shri Karni Singhji: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Woolen textile mills in Amritsar have become idle due to non-availability of imported raw materials like raw wool and woolltops;

(b) the estimated loss of production since devaluation; and

(c) the steps taken to help the mills to run to their full capacity?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shaif Quareshi): (a) to (c). Government have received no report that woollen mills in Amritsar have become idle due to want of raw materials. For the year 1966-67, import of wool for Rs. 12 crores has been allowed and it is expected that this will meet the requirements of the mills to a reasonable extent.

Small Car

484. Shri Firodia:

Shri R. Barua;
Shri R. S. Pandey;
Shri Surendra Pal Singh;
Shri Yashpal Singh;
Shri N. R. Laskar;
Shri Liladhar Kotoki;
Shri H. C. Linga Reddy;
Shri P. R. Chakraverti;
Shrimati Savitri Nigam;
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey;
Shri Bagri;
Dr. Mahadeva Prasad;

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision on different proposals to manufacture a small car in the country; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) and (b). No final decision has yet been taken on the

various proposals received for the manufacture of a small car in the country. However, in view of the present tight foreign exchange position, the parties who had submitted proposals for the manufacture of small cars in the private sector, have been requested to submit revised schemes by 30-11-66 if they are in a position to undertake the manufacture without any imports or foreign exchange expenditure. Their replies are awaited.

Trade with Indonesia

485. Shri Firodia:

Shri Yashpal Singh;
Dr. L. M. Singhvi;
Shri R. S. Pandey;
Shri R. Barua;
Shri P. C. Borooah;
Shri Bhaqwat Jha Azad;
Shri S. C. Samanta;
Shri Subodh Hansda;
Shri M. L. Dwivedi;
Shri P. R. Chakraverti;
Shri H. C. Linga Reddy;
Shri D. C. Sharma;
Shri Surendra Pal Singh;
Shri Bibhuti Mishra;
Shri K. N. Tiwary;
Shri Bishwanath Roy;
Shri Kolla Venkaiah;
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa;
Shri Mohan Swarup;
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey;
Shri Bagri;
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia;
Shri Basumatari;

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government held discussions with the Trade Mission of Indonesia which visited India recently;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed for Trade and Commerce between the two countries; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

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

(b) and (c). No, Sir. However, broad agreement was reached between the two Delegations on the provisions of a new Trade Agreement. The Indonesian delegation desired that the new trade agreement proposed may be signed later in Djakarta. The Draft Trade Agreement envisages promotion of closer economic and commercial relations between the two countries and the expansion and diversification of trade between them. It will also specify the commodities available for export from either country to the other.

Increase in speed of trains

486. Shri Firodia:

Shri R. S. Pandey:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to increase the speed of a number of trains in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) There is a proposal to increase the present maximum permissible speed of 96 Km. per hour (60 m.p.h.) on the main line sections of the Broad Gauge only, subject to the availability of requisite funds and foreign exchange.

The maximum permissible speed of the Taj Express running between New Delhi and Agra has been raised to 105 Km. p. h. (65 m.p.h.).

The speed of the Frontier Mail is also proposed to be increased to 105 Km. per hour (65 m. p.h.) on Bombay Central-Mathura Junction section and works in this connection are in progress.

However, even within the present maximum permissible speed of 60 m. p.h., every endeavour is made to

speed up trains to the extent feasible, at each revision of the time table, by adjusting their timings and change of traction. In the time table which came into force from 2-10-1966, consequent on their dieselisation, journey time by Frontier Mails has been reduced by 45 minutes from Bombay to Delhi, 40 minutes from Delhi to Bombay and that of 5 Up/6 Dn Howrah Amritsar Mails by 2 hours 20 minutes from Howrah to Amritsar and 1 hour 40 minutes in the reverse direction. 89 Up/90 Dn Howrah-Madras Expresses have been speeded up by 4 hours from Howrah to Madras and 2 hours 35 minutes in the reverse direction. Tatanagar-Waltair Expresses and Puri-Hyderabad Expresses have also been accelerated by 35 minutes to 1 hour 20 minutes.

In addition to these important trains, about 110 other passenger trains have also been accelerated by minutes and above.

Employees of Geological Survey of India

487. Shri Bagri:

Shri Yashpal Singh:

Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:

Will the Minister of Mines and Metals be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4106 on the 2nd September, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the pending claims of Field Establishment Allowances to the employees of the Geological Survey of India (formerly Indian Bureau of Mines), Exploration Wing have since been settled;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, when the payment of the arrears will be made?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) to (c). At present 41 cases are pending settlement. Out of these, 24 are pending with the Audit Department and 17 are under