

(b) the total volume of the trade during the last financial year; and

(c) who are the share-holders of the company and whether Government propose to offer equity shares of the Company to the public?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) Manganese Ore (India) Ltd., is not exporting manganese ore on a barter deal.

(b)

	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (in rupees)
Export sales	1,95,354	2,35,67,360/-
Local sales	1,37,848	1,47,91,529/-

(c) The share-holders of the Company are:

- (1) The Government of India.
- (2) The State Government of Maharashtra.
- (3) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- (4) The C.P. Manganese Ore Co. Ltd., London.

There is no proposal to offer Equity Shares of the Company to the public.

Appointment of Member for Security and Safety

1728. Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the suggestion for appointing a Member specially for security and safety on the Railway Board; and

(b) if so, the decision in this respect?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). There is already a Safety organisation in the Railway Board headed by an officer of the rank of Director, working under the guidance of Member incharge of Transportation. The security orga-

nisation in the Railway Board is headed by the Inspector General, Railway Protection Force, who is also working under the guidance of Member, incharge of Transportation. No decision has yet been taken to appoint a Member exclusively for Safety.

Cashew nut Processing Industry

1729. Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Warlor:
Shri M. R. Krishna:
Shri Ramapathi Rao:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the cashew growing countries of East Africa have already begun to install newly invented Italian mechanical shelling and peeling plants which pose a great threat to our own cashew nut processing industry, which gets its main supply of raw cashew from the East African Countries; and

(b) if so, what schemes or plans are afoot to counteract the adverse effect of this development in Africa in order to save our own industry from ruination?

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

(b) Imports of rawnuts is freely allowed under Open General Licence. Measures are also being taken to increase indigenous cashewnut production. Introduction of better collection methods to avoid wastage is also engaging the attention of the Government.

Sale of Electric Gadgets

1730. Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Standards Institute has advised that the sale of electric gadgets and appliances without proper testing and licensing should be banned in the country; and