

of incidents of snatching away of Ballot Boxes have come to the notice of Government in a number of villages in Guntur District ;

(b) whether Government have investigated the incidents ; and

(c) if so, what are the findings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Nationalisation of Big Audit Firms

1229. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state what decision has since been taken on the proposal to nationalise big audit firms ?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : No such proposal is under consideration.

Export of Steel

1231. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) the value of steel, item-wise produced by the steel plants in the public sector, which was exported during 1968-69 and 1969-70 ;

(b) the target fixed for exporting those items for the years 1970-71 and 1971-72 ;

(c) the items which have hard competition in foreign countries and the steps Government have taken to face the problem ; and

(d) the programmes chalked out by Government to increase the rate of export of these items ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) The foreign-exchange earned from iron and steel produced and exported by the Hindustan Steel Ltd. during 1968-69 and 1969-

70 was as follows :

	(FOB value in Rupees-million)	
	1968-69	1969-70
Pig iron	158.1	201.8
Ingots	—	4.7
Billets	30.3	15.7
Rails	34.9	69.0
Bars & Rods	17.3	14.3
Wire Rods	—	13.1
Structurals	161.8	136.7
	402.4	455.3

(b) Fixation of targets for export of iron and steel during 1970-71 is under consideration. Targets for 1971-72 will be considered at the appropriate time.

(c) and (d). Rails and pig iron are the items which face strong competition in foreign countries at present. Among the steps being taken to face the situation are diversification of markets, development of new profiles to meet the stringent specification requirement of different countries, expansion of credit facilities and other incentives. The quantum of export depends, among other things, on the exportable surpluses in the country. There is considerable shortage of various categories of steel in the country and, therefore, exports have to be regulated keeping in view the internal demand. It is anticipated that during 1970-71 it will not be possible to reach the level of exports reached during 1969-70, in view of these shortages.

Pilferage of Electrical Fittings and Fixtures

1232. SHRI MRITYUNJAY PRASAD :
SHRI C. M. KEDARIA :
SHRIMATI TARA SAPRE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the reasons that the Passenger trains generally and the Express and other fast trains off and on are without lights and fans or if the fittings are there, they do not work ;

(b) the steps that are being taken to improve the conditions ; and