

- (b) if so, the findings thereof;
- (c) whether appropriate compensation has been given to the victims/next kins to victims killed in the accident; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The accident at unmanned level crossing was enquired by a Committee of Officers which has concluded that it occurred due to negligence and failure on the part of Bus driver to take precautions as laid down under section 131 of Motor Vehicles Act, before negotiating the level crossing.

(c) and (d) No compensation is payable to the kin of victims in case of unmanned level crossing accident. However, as a special case, Railways have paid the following ex-gratia payment:

- (i) To the next of kin of deceased person - Total of Rs. 48,000/-.
- (ii) To the injured person - Total of Rs. 15,000/-.

[English]

Chinese Officials in Myanmar

1391. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :
SHRI A.C. JOSE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Chinese Officials working on nine Myanmar bases" appearing in Sunday Pioneer dated May 10, 1998; and
- (b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per intelligence input, China has been assisting Myanmar in installation of surveillance and Communication systems in some of its islands in the Bay of Bengal. Chinese personnel have been visiting Myanmar in this connection. Myanmar authorities have informed us that they do not permit any foreign country to station its personnel on its territory. They have further informed that the monitoring facilities are being utilised for surveillance of their Exclusive Economic Zone.

Import of Stainless Steel

1392. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether good quality of stainless steel is being imported in the form of scrap or seconds;
- (b) if so, the quantity of such imported steel;
- (c) whether Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur and other indigenous producers are adversely affected thereby; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Provisions exist in the Customs Tariff Act and the Rules made thereunder to check the mis-declaration of imports. The import of some stainless steel items has shown an increasing trend during the last 3 years. The details of imports for the last three years are as follows:

	(Qty. in'000 tonnes)		
	1995-96	1996-97	Apr-Dec. '97
Finished Stainless steel			
Prime	46.5	33.1	13.7
Seconds	2.1	3.4	9.9
TOTAL :	48.6	36.5	23.6

(c) and (d) It may be difficult to establish a direct correlation between increase in import of stainless steel seconds and the performance of the domestic stainless steel producers. However, with the increase in customs duties announced in the budget 1998-99 it is expected that import of stainless steel prime and seconds will decrease.

[Translation]

Irregularities Committed in Awarding Contact for Gauge Conversion

1393. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether gross irregularities are committed in awarding contracts for gauge conversion ;
- (b) if so, whether the investigation of such cases has been handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation; and
- (c) if so, the number of such cases handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation and the time by which investigation work of such cases is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF