

the assurances given in the reply to Starred Question No 483 on 9th December, 1969 is placed on the table of the Sabha [Placed in Library See No LT—1709/72]

(b) The Pay Commission are examining the case of all categories of Government employees including Station Masters

Supply of Imported Steel to Wagon Builders

*353 SHRI BAKSI NAYAK Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state whether imported steel is being supplied to the wagon builders to manufacture wagons for export and if so the quantity of steel imported for the purpose ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A C GEORGE) In view of the general shortage of steel, bulk imports of several categories of steel have been allowed for distribution to engineering export fabricators including railway wagon manufacturers. So far, 67,370 tonnes of steel have been allowed to be imported for distribution to wagon exporters

Allotment of Quarters to non-Essential Staff of Delhi Division (Northern Railway)

*356 SHRI LILADHAR KOTOKI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the non essential staff of Delhi Division (Northern Railway) who were sanctioned quarters on an out-of-turn basis on medical grounds during 1966 have not so far been allotted the accommodation, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Acute shortage of quarters, and the need to limit 'out-of-turn' allotment of quarters on an equitable basis with due regard to the total allotment of quarters made to the staff.

Thermal Power Plant in Madhya Pradesh

*357 SHRI RANABHADUR SINGH Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh have sought the Centre's approval and help to set up a big thermal power generation unit at Sengrauli in Sidhi District of Madhya Pradesh, and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR K L RAO) (a) Madhya Pradesh has proposed setting up of three thermal power stations in the State to be located at Korba Satpura and Singrauli with a total capacity of 363 million kw. The proposed station at Singrauli is for 1320 MW comprising four units of 330 MW each

(b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has been advised to submit a revised proposal conforming with the overall scheme for power development prepared by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power for the entire country. The estimated addition by thermal power in the Fifth Plan for Madhya Pradesh is expected to be 1460 MW

Decline in Export of Bristles

*358 SHRI ANANT PRASAD DHUSIA Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned annually by the export of bristles in the last three years,

(b) whether there is a decline in the export of bristles and, if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps taken to check the decline in the export thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A C GEORGE) (a) The amount of foreign exchange earned during the financial years from 1968-69 to 1970-71 and

for the six months of 1971-72 is given as under :—

Year	Qty. in Tonnes	
	Qty.	Value in Rs. '000'
1968-69	124	11,861
1969-70	109	9,771
1970-71	73	5,583
1971-72 (April-Sep.71)	60	5,899

(b) *Reasons for decline in export of bristles :*

1. Because of the lucrative incentives offered by the Govt. of Nepal against export of bristles, Indian bristles used to be diverted to Nepal and from there export was effected. The Nepalese exporters of bristles used to come down to India, contact the pluckers in the villages and offer better prices than the Indian merchants. However, bristles have been brought under the Export Control Order.
2. One of the major factors coming in the way of developing exports of bristles in large quantities is that at present the trade is concentrated in the cottage scale sector with a limited finance and credit facilities. The exporters have to depend on the London Auction whose buyers fix up the price at the time of auction in every quarter. Even if the prices offered by the buyers in auctions are not attractive, the exporters have no other way but to sell the same at the buyers price.
3. Under the present condition, the Indian exporters have no bargaining capacity. If the exporters do not wish to sell their products at the auction price, they have to keep the goods in the London Warehouse where the warehousing insurance and handling charges go on increasing. As a result, the exporters are compelled to sell at the prices fixed by the buyers.

4. China, the biggest producer of bristles is now able to export bristles to USA, the biggest consumers of bristles in the world. Moreover, Chinese bristles are of superior quality to that of India.

(c) The Government have taken the following steps to check the decline in export of bristles :—

- (i) The export of bristles have been brought under Export Control Order w. e. f. March, 1971 to check the smuggling of this item to Nepal.
- (ii) For meeting scare material of imported import origin replenishment is allowed at 2%.
- (iii) To organise the bristles industry which is concentrated in cottage sector with limited Finance and Credit facilities, State Trading Corporation of India have been asked to help in the export of bristles.

Amount of Expenditure during Fourth Plan on Development of Railways in Kerala

*359. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated expenditure for the development of Railways during Fourth Plan period; and

(b) how much of this amount is to be spent for the development of Railways in Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) the Railways Fourth Five Year Plan provides for an outlay of Rs. 1400 crores, including Rs. 550 crores for replacement of overaged assets.

(b) The development of Railways is not on State-wise or Region-wise, Workers taken up by Railways, and expenditure