

arrange import of adequate quantities of various raw materials in bulk in a planned and phased manner, at competitive prices, thereby effecting savings in foreign exchange and ensuring their supply to the consumers at reasonable prices. As regards exports, the STC has been able to eliminate internal competition amongst exporters, to secure the best prices from foreign buyers and to promote exports of various commodities, and has been at the same time, assisting small manufacturers in exporting their products.

**Damage due to floods in Birbhum,  
West Bengal**

\*310. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) total damage to crops, foodgrains and buildings caused by recent floods in Birbhum in West Bengal, Block-wise;

(b) the areas in Birbhum which have been affected by the recent floods and to what extent; and

(c) the amount of grant sanctioned in this regard to the West Bengal Government for different Districts?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) and (b). No report has so far been received from the State Government in respect of damage due to floods in Birbhum district of West Bengal.

(c) No amount has so far been sanctioned by the Centre to the West Bengal Government during the current year.

**Profit of Railways during Next  
Financial Year**

\*314. DR. SANKATA PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways expected to earn profit in the next financial year; and

(b) if so, the amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) It is too early at this stage to make any anticipations about the surplus or the budgetary position of the Railways for the next year.

(b) Does not arise.

**Joint Review Committee for Indo-  
Nepal Trade Agreement**

\*316. SHRI P. GANGADEB :  
SHRI P. M. MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the joint review committee of India and Nepal was held in Kathmandu on 24th July, 1972 to review the implementation of the Indo-Nepal Trade and Transit Treaty concluded in August, 1971; and

(b) if so, a resume of the discussions held and decisions taken at the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Committee reviewed the working of the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade and Transit (1971) — both with reference to trade between India and Nepal and the transit of Nepal's trade with 'third' countries through India.

2. The delegations exchanged information and discussed the adequacy of measures in force to prevent smuggling and deflection. It was felt that on the whole these were functioning satisfactorily and the Treaty had worked smoothly. The Committee agreed that the following steps would be taken with a view to strengthen mutual contacts between the appropriate agencies of the two countries :—

(i) *Customs Group* :

(a) The Indian Border Examiners of Customs will liaise with their counterparts in Nepal once a month.

(b) The Collector of Customs, Patna, will liaison with his counterpart in H.M.G. of Nepal. Such meetings may be held quarterly.

Group (a) and (b) will report the results of their efforts for consideration of the Joint Review Committee.

(ii) *Statistical Group* :

Appropriate statistical groups of the two countries shall meet immediately and thereafter at periodical intervals before the Joint Review Committee meetings.

3. In the light of the experience of the working of the new Treaty and on the request made by Nepal, it was agreed