

A high-powered committee will not be able to mend these matters. I am sure the House knows that the action we are now taking is so serious that such action has never been taken before in the railways.

**Wagon Shortage for Saw Mills and Timber Industries in Kottayam**

\*1661. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of wagons due to which the Saw Mills and Timber Industries in Kottayam are suffering great losses and there is likelihood of the industries being closed down ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide wagons in that area ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*Statement*

Timber sizes, shooks and planks are offered for despatch and loaded at Kottayam station. Merchants normally insist on the supply of covered wagons for clearance of this traffic. Planks and shooks are also offered for despatch at other stations on the Erankulam—Kottayam—Quilon section. Most of the demands registered at Kottayam and other stations are for destinations South of Kalyan and Byculia, movement to which points has to be regulated due to limited clearance capacity over the Poona-Bombay Ghat sections, and release capacity at Byculia.

2. Within the above physical limitations, efforts have been made to maximise depatches of timber sizes, shooks and planks from Kottayam station. During the period 1st January to 29th July, 71, 8 wagons were loaded with timber sizes and 569 wagons with shooks and planks from Kottayam. On 29.7.1971, while no demands were pending for timber sizes at Kottayam, only about 45 demands for shooks and planks, most of which are for destinations South of Kalyan and Byculia were awaiting clearance at Kottayam.

SHRI VARKEY GEORGE : May I know whether the hon. minister has received a memorandum from the Saw Mill and Timber Industries Association of Kerala

stating that many saw mills and timber industries in Kerala are likely to be closed down due to shortage of wagons and if so, the steps he has taken on this representation ?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : I have received the representation and we are doing our best. The hon. member knows that for these commodities, wagons are allotted on quota basis. To Bombay there is a little bottleneck because it is a ghat section. We cannot allow any number of wagons for these low priority commodities. Under the existing circumstances, I assure him that I will do my very best to see that more wagons are given. But to complain that factories themselves are likely to be closed down is an exaggerated way of making demands.

SHRI VARKEY GEORGE : In view of the shortage of wagons in India, what are the steps being taken to increase the production of wagons in our country ?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : That is a different question. Nevertheless, I would like to say that there is no shortage of wagons. I have been repeatedly saying that it is the movement that is being hampered because of criminal activities in the north-eastern and northern region.

**Setting up of Tanneries in North Bengal**

\*1663. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the business people of North Bengal are earning a lot by supplying raw leather from North Bengal to other parts of the country ;

(b) whether Government are considering any plan to establish few Tanneries in North Bengal and thereby provide jobs to the local youths ; and

(c) if so, the time by which these tanneries will be established ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Govt. of India have no such proposals.

(c) Does not arise.

**SHRI GADADHAR SAHA :** In view of the large stock of raw leather in North Bengal and the suitable climate, there, I would like to know whether the Government is going to give priority for the setting up of tanneries in North Bengal, thus providing employment to the unemployed, which is a serious problem ?

**SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA :** We do not propose to set up any public sector industry so far as tanneries are concerned in North Bengal. But so far as small-scale industries and cottage industries are concerned, we are trying to help them and provide some employment to the people there.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Next question.

**SHRI DINESH JOARDER :** I want to put a supplementary.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He says, information is being collected.

**SHRI DINESH JOARDER :** The minister said that small scale industries and cottage industries with leather are proposed to be patronised by the Central Government in North-Bengal. But from the raw leather that is being supplied from North Bengal, big houses like Bata Shoe Company and others are earning a lot of money. With the help of that raw material a big leather products manufacturing industry can be set up there.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Next question.

#### **Small Car Projets in Private Sector**

\*1665. **SHRI C. CHITTIBABU :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased state :

(a) whether the two small car projects in the private sector for which licences were issued last year will be restricted largely to assembly ; and

(b) whether the components for these cars produced in automobile ancillary units

require capital imports for producing these components ?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) :** (a) (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### *Statement*

(a) The schemes of the parties to whom letters of intent had been granted last year for the manufacture of passenger cars envisage not only assembly of cars but also manufacture of a number of components with in the plant itself.

(b) A large number of undertakings are already manufacturing automobile ancillary items in the country. Letters of intents have also recently been issued to large number of parties for the setting up of new industrial units for the manufacture of automobile ancillaries for catering to the requirements of original equipment needed by the manufacture of cars, commercial vehicles, jeeps etc. and the replacement market. Generally, these units will require some imported capital goods, though a few of them may require only indigenous machinrry.

**SHRI C. CHITTIBABU :** Will the Minister tell us the names of the parties to whom letters of intent have been issued ? May I also know whether a proto-type has been submitted for examination by a firm from Madras and, if so, what is the reaction of government ?

**SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY :** The two parties are Shri Sanjay Gandhi of New Delhi and Shri Madan Mohan Rao of Madras. Shri Sanjay Gandhi has already produced a proto-type. So far as Shri Madan Mohan Rao is concerned, he has not yet produced any proto-type.

**SHRI C. CHITTIBABU :** What has happened to the request of the Chief Minister of Madras to the Prime Minister to take up a small car project in Tamilnadu ?

**SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY :** All the Chief Ministers, barring probably the Chief Minister of Nagaland, have requested the Government of India to set up