

(d) if so, the names of countries with which negotiations are going on at present in this regard ?

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

(b) Central African Republic, Dahomey and Niger.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Nil.

Loss of Cardamom in Transit from Bodinayakanur in Tamil Nadu to North

*1252. **SHRI M. S. SIVASAMY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is heavy loss in transit of cardamom booked by goods train from Bodinayakanur in Tamil Nadu to North during the last eight months;

(b) the extent of missing wagons and the value of goods lost; and

(c) the steps taken to trace the missing wagons ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) There is no heavy loss, but some loss.

(b) The traffic does not move in full wagon loads. Occasional shortages have, however, been noticed in small consignments of Cardamom booked as parcels from Bodinayakanur to North. The value of loss is estimated at Rs. 45,000/- on the basis of claims received in the last eight months.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposed Retrenchment of Substitute Workers on North Eastern Railway

*1253. **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 7,000 substitute workers on the North Eastern Railway are proposed to be retrenched, if so, the reasons therefore and the scheme for saving them from unemployment;

(b) whether about 7,000 employees on the North Eastern Railway working for more than 7 years have not yet been accepted as permanent hands; and

(c) if so, causes thereof and the steps being taken to remedy the same ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Production of Tractors, Printing Machines and Heavy Duty Presses in H. M. T., Bangalore

*1254. **SHRI S. R. DAMANI:**
SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by Hindustan Machine Tools Limited, Bangalore on the proposal to take up manufacture of tractors, printing machines and heavy duty presses;

(b) the capacity, capital outlay and location of the plants envisaged for each item;

(c) the terms and conditions of foreign collaboration entered into, if any; and

(d) by what time they are expected to go into production ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY): (a) Progress made in respect of taking up the manufacture of tractors, Printing Machines and Heavy Duty Presses is as follows:—

Tractors:—A collaboration agreement for the manufacture of tractors was signed with M/s. Motokov Foreign Trade Corporation, Praha, Czechoslovakia on 29-1-1971. The detailed Project Report is being prepared jointly by Hindustan Machine Tools' Engineers and Czech Experts.

Printing Machines and Heavy Duty Presses: Collaboration proposals with M/s. Societa Nebiolo of Italy for the manufacture of Printing Machinery and with M/s. Verson All-steel Press Company of USA for the manufacture of Heavy Duty Presses have already been approved by Government. The Detailed Project Reports for these presently under examination.