

growers to grow more cotton. But, here, it is one thing. From Sudan we get quality cotton, high quality cotton which perhaps we will have to have from them for a number of years to come. But the quantity is not much. It varies from five to eight lakhs bales.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Now it is admitted here that our banks stopped payment. I would like to know from the Minister whether it is true that the Government of India has not allowed remittance saying that there is no credit in the name of Sudan. If so, what is the reason?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : There is no question of credit. Even for credit there are terms of payment and our terms of payment were not fulfilled in time. That is why the Sudanese exporters did not export the cotton to us. It was a temporary suspension and it is going to be resumed.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : My question was not answered. . .

MR. SPEAKER : He has answered it.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : We were not allowed to remit because there is no credit in the name of Sudan.

MR. SPEAKER : No arguments please. This is not the time to argue.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI : The hon. Minister said that the payment was not rendered by the State Bank due to the uncertainty in the value of pound sterling. May I know in what other cases the Bank did not pay. This difficulty should have arisen in respect of other countries also.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I cannot say. It is mainly a question for the Ministry of Finance.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arvind Netam—absent.

Shri Onkar Lal Berwa—absent.

Allotment of Railway Land in Delhi to Cooperative Housing Societies of Railwaymen

*320. **SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has a policy to stimulate the growth of House Building activities amongst the Railwaymen; and

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has any scheme to allot the surplus railway land in Delhi area or near Delhi to the Co-operative Housing societies of Railwaymen?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No surplus Railway land is available. However Railway Employees Co-operative Housing Societies have been allotted land by the Delhi Development Authority.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : May I know whether the Minister is in a position to state what percentage of the employees at the present moment have actually been provided with railway quarters?

SHRI T. A. PAI : About 40% of the employees have been provided.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : There is a written complaint from the Commercial Clerks of the Eastern Railway that in spite of their repeated demands, they are not getting any facilities either for getting any accommodation in the railway buildings or even they are not getting loans, long term loans for building their own houses. If it is a fact, what is the reaction of the Government in the matter?

SHRI T. A. PAI : I shall look into it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The hon. Minister is aware that the railway employees are not entitled to have any house from the General Pool from the Works & Housing Ministry. I would like to know whether any plan has been chalked out to have more houses during the Fourth Plan. If so, the number of houses to be constructed for Class III and IV employees.

SHRI T. A. PAI : I shall be glad to answer if a separate question is put on the subject. This relates to co-operative housing.

SHRI R. P. YADAV : May I know whether the Government is in the know of the fact that some quarters earmarked for certain category of employees are given to some other category of employees in the N. E. Railway and they are not being vacated?

SHRI T. A. PAI : There may be a few such cases. I do not know under what circumstances they have been

given the quarters. If the hon. Member writes to me, I will give the information.

श्री मोहम्मद इस्माइल : मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा है कि 40 परसेन्ट रेलवे कर्मचारियों को क्वार्टर दिए गए हैं और 60 परसेन्ट को अभी नहीं मिले हैं तो मुझे यह पूछना है कि 60 परसेन्ट जो बाकी हैं उनके लिए रेलवे ने अबतक क्या किया है और आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI T. A. PAI : I think we will have to wait for some better time. Every year we are spending about Rs. 5 crores for house building for railway employees, and the cost of building materials is going up. I think we are accomplishing less and less year after year. Anyway, we are looking into this, and see what best can be done.

SHRI B. V. NAIK : There are 50,000—60,000 acres of land with the railways and the number of railway employees form a very select group. We are told land is available whether in the urban or the rural area along the railway track or in the various urban centres. Will the Railway Minister let us know whether since these are public properties and since these are public undertakings, it will be kept open for housing facilities for the railway employees alone or for other people also who ever deserve to be given or would it be kept as a sort of private reserve for railway men alone?

SHRI T. A. PAI : The land has been given to the Railways for a specific purpose. The Railways will have to decide for what purpose it has to be used. Otherwise, the land has to be given back to the State so that it may be used for other purposes.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Deficit Trade with Federal Republic of Germany

*303. **SHRI BHOLA MANJHI :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a trend of widening deficit trade balance developing in the trade between India and Federal Republic of Germany ;

(b) if so, the amount of deficit balance ; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to stop this?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

During 1970-71, the adverse balance of trade with Federal Republic of Germany was of the order of Rs. 74.57 crores as against Rs. 54.55 crores during 1969-70. During 1971-72 (April-January) the advance balance of trade with Federal Republic of Germany was of the order of Rs. 74.88 crores as against Rs. 60.58 crores during the corresponding period of the previous year.

2. To arrest this trend of widening trade deficit with West Germany steps have been taken to intensify the efforts for accelerated promotion of exports to West Germany. These include efforts taken to secure reduction/elimination of tariff/non-tariff barriers on items of export interest to India, identification and concentration of export efforts on a few selected products, consideration of the question of launching a Commercial Development Programme, participation in fairs/exhibitions, exchange/sponsoring of sales teams/delegations, exploration of ways and means to secure increased West German investments in export-oriented ventures in India and also to secure Indian participation in joint-ventures abroad including consultancy services, effective utilisation of import agencies in West Germany, and measures for ensuring effective/dynamic functioning of export promotion agencies located in India and abroad.

Channelling Imports & Exports through S.T.C.

*309. **SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state the extent to which the State Trading Corporation has succeeded in channelling imports and exports in the best interests of the country's economy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : The State Trading Corporation has been able to