

Report Demanded by Central Vigilance Commission

5489. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether as mentioned in the 7th Annual Report of the Central Vigilance Commission, a complaint was forwarded by the Commission to the Railway Board on the 30th March, 1968 requesting the latter to submit certain necessary papers and a report in that regard; and

(b) whether the said papers and report were sent to the Vigilance Commission and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The results of investigation in the case with the views of the Railway Board thereon, were made available to the Central Vigilance Commission in November, 1971 for advice. The Commission tendered their advice in the December, 1971 observing that as there was no vigilance case against the officer concerned, the Commission would advise closure of the case. The advice of the Commission has been accepted by the Railway Board.

Decline in Textile Exports to Socialist Countries

5490. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in the exports of textiles to the Socialist countries as compared to the last year's exports; and

(b) if so, the causes thereof and the measures Government are contemplating to increase the exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Export of woollen and art silk textiles to the socialist countries like USSR, Yugoslavia, G. D. R., Hungary during 1971-72 show an increase over the previous year's level. Exports of cotton textiles to these countries during the year 1971-72 however, show a decline. The decline in fact applies to the overall exports to all destinations which is largely on account of high cotton prices which were reflected in the production of cotton textiles, to a greater extent of cotton yarn, exported during 1971-72. The prices offered by some of the Socialist countries were too low to be accepted and contracting with some of these countries got delayed. Currency difficulties of some of the importing Socialist countries were also responsible for the decline.

Cotton situation during the current year is conducive to exports of cotton textiles and a better export performance can be expected.

Ramming of Delhi-Assam Mail into a Tractor-Trailer at Level Crossing between Buxar and Chausa Stations (Eastern Railway)

5491. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi-Assam Mail rammed into a tractor-trailer at a level crossing between Buxar and Chausa stations on the 14th April, 1972;

(b) if so, the total loss of life; and

(c) the compensation paid to their next of kins?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) The accident took place on 13.4.1972 and the train involved was No. 86 Down Assam Mail,

(b) In this accident 8 persons were killed.

(c) Neither any claim for compensation has been received nor has any amount been paid as compensation so far to the legal beneficiaries of the eight deceased in this accident. However, *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 500/— each has been made to the next of kin of 4 deceased persons, but the same could not be made to the next of kin of the remaining 4 deceased persons, as their whereabouts could not be ascertained as yet.

Study of Export Potential of Bihar

5492. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the study of the export potential of Bihar by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade recommended reconstitution of the State Export Promotion Board for laying down policies and programmes for export promotion for Bihar ; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the recommendation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) The Institute's study had recommended the revival of the State Board for Export promotion.

(b) The State Government have reconstituted the Board for export promotion with the Minister for Industries as the Chairman.

Upgradation of Railway Staff

5493. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Member of Parliament had written a letter on the 2nd February, 1970 to the then Railway Minister regarding the upgradation of certain officers and clerical staff and whether a provision of Rs. 8 crores for the purpose was made in the Budget for 1969-70;

(b) whether a 'Dharna' was staged by some Members of Parliament before the residence of the Railway Minister on the 17th December, 1970 and before the residence of the Prime Minister on the 14th February, 1971 and a Memorandum was handed over to them ; and

(c) if so the contents of the Memorandum and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA.): (a) Shri R. K. Sinha M. P addressed a letter on 2. 2. 1970 to Shri P. Govinda Menon, the then Railway Minister stating that "even a provision of Rs. 8 crores was made in the Budget to meet the expenditure of upgrading of officers and Class III clerical staff." No such commitment had been made by the former Railway Minister, Shri C M Poonacha In an interview to P. T. I. reported in the *Indian Express* dated 8th January, 1969, the Minister had stated that "a new scheme just approved by the Railway Board would benefit Class I, Class II and Class III staff including running staff and that these new benefits would cost the Railways about Rs. 8 crores annually." However, the Minister had also stated that "for Class III Clerical staff, the Railway Board were considering increasing the percentage of promotional quota." The question was examined at length and it was decided that the redistribution of posts by grades could not be undertaken, but having regard to the fact that there was some stagnation, Class III and Class IV staff of all grades who have been at the maximum of their pay scales for two years or more should be