

the delay caused by longer alternative route, are factors likely to have adverse effect on the trade. However, by and large, the traders have managed to keep to their commitments and no reports of cancellation of orders of any magnitude have come to Government's notice so far.

#### Short Loading of Coal Wagons in Calcutta

\*1744. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received of heavy losses suffered by the wholesale coal dealers in Calcutta area due to persistent short loading of coal wagons;

(b) whether this is due to malpractices at the weighbridge centres or due to other causes; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

**The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha):** (a) Yes, Sir, some complaints without quoting any specific instances have been received.

(b) Investigations made at weighbridge stations have not brought out any evidence of malpractices at the weighbridge stations. Some shortage in coal wagons is likely to occur during transit, considering the fact that this commodity is mainly moved in open wagons. With all reasonable security arrangements, some cases of victimisation of coal wagons during transit cannot be ruled out.

(c) Concentrated security checks are frequently exercised at vulnerable points, wherever possible, to prevent pilferage and loss of coal. Repeated checks are also carried out by Traffic Inspectors and officers, both surprise and otherwise, at forwarding points. It has been suggested to the complainants that to satisfy themselves, they may send their representatives to witness weighing at weighbridge stations.

#### Consortium for Designing and Supply of Fertiliser Plants

\*1745. **Shri D. N. Patodia:**  
**Shri R. Barua;**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chemicals Plant and Machinery Association of India is taking an initiative to form a consortium consisting of the Chemical Plant manufacturers, the Fertilisers Corporation of India and the Fertiliser and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. to undertake the designing and supply of complete fertilizer plants on a turnkey basis;

(b) whether the said Association has submitted their plan to Government to constitute such a consortium; and

(c) if so, whether Government have considered their plan in this regard?

**The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed):** (a) The Chairman of the Chemicals Plant and Machinery Association of India had mentioned in a Symposium on chemical plant, design and fabrication held in New Delhi on 13th and 14th April, 1967, that they were examining the possibility of forming a Consortium to supply complete plants on turnkey basis.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Manufacture of Cigarettes

\*1746. **Shri Baburao Patel:** Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5666 on the 14th July, 1967 and state:

(a) the reasons why Imperial Tobacco Co. Ltd., Vazir Sultan Tobacco