

Shri N. S. Sharma:
Shri Sharada Nand:
Shri Eril Khushan Lal:
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee:
Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to import more cotton to feed the textile mills now in crisis for want of raw material;

(b) if so, when a decision is likely to be taken; and

(c) the amount of cotton likely to be imported during the current year and at what price and from which countries it will be imported?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinanath Singh): (a) to (c). Efforts are being made to import additional quantities of cotton. An agreement has already been entered into with the U.A.R. providing *inter alia* for import of about 200,000 bales of cotton. Other negotiations are in progress.

About 800,000 bales are likely to be imported from different countries such as the U.S.A., the U.A.R., Sudan, Uganda etc. The following are the approximate c.i.f. values of cotton imported from different countries:

U.A.R.	Rs. 1,666 per bale.
• Sudan	Rs. 1,364 per bale.
U.S.A.	Rs. 961 per bale.
East Africa	Rs. 981 per bale.

Completion of Blast Furnace No. 4 of Rourkela

*100. **Shri R. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether the erection work of blast furnace No. 4 of Rourkela Steel Works has been completed within the scheduled time;

(b) whether the assistance of any Indian concern in the erection work was sought for and made available; and

(c) the extent to which this new addition will increase the production of the ingot steel?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) and (b). There has been some delay in the construction of Blast Furnace No. 4 at Rourkela because of the failure on the part of an Indian contractor who had been entrusted with a part of the work.

(c) The new addition will increase ingot steel production ultimately by 0.8 million tonne per annum.

रेल किराचों की दरों में कमी

101. श्री रामसेवक दास :
 श्री मोहन प्रसाद :
 श्री रवि दास :
 श्री सधु निजमे :
 श्री जगत करणेजीब :
 श्री महाराज सिंह भारती :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उन स्थानों पर जहाँ छोटी तथा बड़ी रेलवे लाइनें साथ-साथ चलती हैं, किराचों की दरों में कमी है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इन दोनों लाइनों पर यात्रा के लिये टिकटों की व्यवस्था इस तरह की है कि इनमें से केवल एक ही लाइन पर यात्रा की जा सकती है; और

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो क्या इन कमी को दूर करने के प्रयत्न पर विचार किया जा रहा है ?

रेलवे मंत्री (श्री ए. ए. सु. गुजरा) :
 (क) ऐसा कोई उदाहरण नहीं है जहाँ छोटी और बड़ी लाइनें समानांतर चलती हैं और उनके किराचों में कमी हो। लेकिन पूर्वोक्त सीमा रेलवे पर न्यू कलकत्ता-दुर्ग और