

and for special type of cables which are not being produced indigenously. It may be added that the import of Rs. 6·00 crores during the last year constitute about 6% of the total production in the country.

(b) The existing units in the private sector are not adequate for the manufacture of cables required for telecommunication purposes, without installation of balancing plant and equipment. The aggregate requirement of balancing equipment of all the cable manufacturers in the private sector to undertake manufacture of those cables would be considerable.

(c) Under the present policy of diversification announced by Government, existing units are allowed to diversify their production to take up the manufacture of any type of cables and wires with their existing equipment up to 25% of their licensed capacity.

HOWRAH RAILWAY YARD

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Howrah Railway Yard is full of wagons which are not being unloaded by the businessmen concerned;

(b) whether due to the above unloading of wagons, a large number of articles kept for transhipment to the various places are still at Howrah for more than a month;

(c) whether many of the affected traders have written to the Eastern Railway Administration and the Railway Board for the payment of prices of articles and freight charges; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Sometime back, there was accumulation of wagons in the yard at Howrah because the consignments unloaded were not being removed and release of further wagons was, in consequence, affected. There is no congestion now.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of the reply to part (c), the question does not arise.

DISMANTLING OF NERAL-MATHERAN RAILWAY LINE

*869. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to dismantle the Neral-Matheran Railway track and/or discontinue the Neral-Matheran train service;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any protest from the local people against this move; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the difficulties the people of Matheran will be put to, if the railway line is discontinued?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b). The question is under examination as the line has been running at a loss.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) All aspects will be carefully considered before arriving at a decision.

EXPORT OF JUTE AND COTTON

*870. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has abolished 10 per cent export duty on jute and cotton as a consequence of the devaluation of the pound sterling; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to see that the export of jute and cotton from India does not fall?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b). Pakistan has abolished the export duty of 10% on raw jute and raw cotton after the devaluation of the pound sterling.

It is however not proposed, to reduce the export duty on raw cotton to meet the situation. There is no export duty on raw jute.

SICK TEXTILE MILLS

5413. SHRI BABURAO PATEL:
SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR:
SHRI D. R. PARMAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of 'sick' textile mills in India, State-wise, with their assets