

Non-clearance of Railway Wagons with Food-Stuff at Howrah and other Stations

*1390. SHRI SAMAR GUHA :
SHRI C. K. BHATTA-
CHARYYA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 900 Railway wagons with foodstuff like maize, barley, pulse, mustard seeds and potatoes were deliberately not cleared at Howrah and other Stations in West Bengal on the 30th March, 1968 ;

(b) whether the delay in clearance of these foodstuffs was due to an effort on the part of some traders of West Bengal to raise prices by creating artificial scarcity for them ;

(c) whether the non-clearance was made possible due to some lacuna in the Indian Railways Act ; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to set matters right ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No, Sir. There was no abnormal detention of wagons in respect of these commodities on the 30th March, 1968.

(b) to (d). In view of the answer to part (a), these questions do not arise.

Recession in Public Sector Engineering Projects

*1391. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Engineering Association has pointed out to Government that because of recession, the public sector engineering projects are attempting to utilise their idle capacity by taking up the manufacture of new items and by purchasing goods from one another on a preferential basis ;

(b) whether as a result of diversification, more idle capacity is being created in the private sector and the produce of discriminatory purchases from the sister public sector units without resort to public tenders, is leading to higher costs ; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto and in what way the difficulties now being experienced by the private sector are likely to be tackled ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

कोयला-बैंगनों में से कोयला उतारना

*1392. श्री शशि भूषण बाजपेयी : क्या रेलवे मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार कोयला बैंगनों में से कोयला उतारने के कार्य का विकेन्द्रीकरण करने का है ताकि उतारने का कार्य नई दिल्ली स्टेशन जैसे अधिक भीड़ भाड़ वाले स्थान की बजाय निजामुद्दीन और किशनगंज स्टेशनों पर किया जाये; और

(ख) क्या सरकार का विचार इस कार्य को केवल निजामुद्दीन स्टेशन पर कराने का है ?

रेलवे मन्त्री (श्री चे० मु० पुनावा) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) सवाल नहीं उठता ।

Shortage of Transistor Cells

*1393. SHRI G. S. MISHRA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have examined the reasons for the shortage of finished goods such as (i) transistor cells, (ii) tyres, and (iii) steel made items of domestic use ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether this scarcity is artificially created by the trade or due to slump in the market ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of