

राज्य के अधिकारियों को उद्योगपतियों से समय-समय पर अश्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं। जहाँ भी संभव हुआ है, दिल्ली राज्य अधिकारियों द्वारा सहायता दी गई है।

#### MANUFACTURE OF TENNIS BALLS

\*708. SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing installed capacity for the manufacture of tennis balls is sufficient to meet the demand for such balls in the country and that the existing producers have represented to Government that the total installed capacity could not be used owing to the shortfall in the imports of felt required for such manufacture; and

(b) what arrangements Government are making to ensure that adequate supply of imported felt is made available to the existing manufacturers of tennis balls to enable them to achieve full production ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Existing installed capacity for the manufacture of tennis balls is not considered adequate to meet the envisaged demand. M/s. Indian Rubber Manufacturers Ltd. have represented regarding shortage of imported melton cloth (felt) for the manufacture of tennis balls.

(b) Import of raw materials, including felt, is being permitted keeping in view the availability of foreign exchange.

#### HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS FOR RUNNING STAFF

709. SHRI BRIJ RAJ SINGH KOTAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the present Hours of Employment Regulations for the Railway Running staff are not conducive to efficient running of trains ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : The provisions of the Hours of Employment Regulations are based on a detailed consideration of all aspects like proper operation of train services, requirements of staff etc. and it would not be correct to say that the present rules are not conducive to efficient running of trains.

#### TRADE AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA

\*710. SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any trade agreement has been reached or is under negotiation with Australia following the Prime Minister's visit to that country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### MEDICAL FACILITIES TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

\*711. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no arrangements for medical treatment of those Railway employees and their families who reside far away from the Railway Hospitals and Health Units ;

(b) whether any other assistance is given to such employees who cannot avail of the medical facilities from the Railway hospitals and medical units; and

(c) whether the Railway employees who are residing  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles away from the Hospitals and Health Units in Delhi have opted for the CGHS dispensaries located near their residences and, if so, the number thereof and the reasons for not accepting their requests ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Railway employees residing in a place

remote from a Railway hospital/Health Unit or a Railway Doctor may make their own arrangements for any medical attendance they may require.

(b) Such employees are entitled to reimbursement of expenditure for medical attention at non-Railway medical institutions, to the extent permissible under rules.

(c) Railway employees numbering 1731 desired to avail of the CGHS Scheme facilities at Delhi/New Delhi. The possibility of coming to an arrangement with CGHS authorities for this purpose was explored, but they did not agree to accommodate the Railway staff under their scheme, on a contributory basis.

#### EXPORT PROMOTION SCHEMES

\*712. DR. RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the working of the various Export Promotion Incentive Schemes and their effect on India's export performance;

(b) whether Government intend to continue these Schemes; and

(c) the annual expenditure incurred by Government on these Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH):

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir.

(c) The expenditure incurred by Government on cash assistance schemes during the year 1967-68 is Rs. 16.47 crores.

#### SUPPLY OF RAILS AND RAIL WAGONS TO U.S.S.R.

\*713. SHRI BABURAO PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soviet Prime Minister, when he visited India, merely gave promise to buy "any number of rails and railway wagons" from us, but did not place any definite order either for rails or for wagons;

(b) the precise steps taken by

Government after the Soviet Premier Kosygin's promise to get the Soviet Government's actual order and with what result and for what value; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (c). When the Soviet Prime Minister visited India in January, 1968, he expressed interest in buying railway wagons from India on a long-term basis. In pursuance of this, M/s. Machinoimport, Moscow have signed a Protocol with the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd., for supply of 54,000 Railway Wagons upto 1975.

The Soviet Union is also interested in buying steel rails and other steel products and it has signed an agreement with Hindustan Steel Ltd., for supply of 600,000 tonnes steel sections during 1968-70.

#### रूपये में भुगतान वाले देशों से टायरों का आयात

\*714 श्री राम चरण: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि टायरों का आयात करते समय, "रूपये में भुगतान" क्षेत्र से भारी तादाद में टायरों का आयात करने के प्रश्न पर पूरी तरह विचार नहीं किया गया था; और

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि ये आयातित टायर भारत में बने टायर की अपेक्षा बहुत घटिया थे, और क्या इन टायरों का मूल्य भी भारत में टायरों से अधिक था?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी): (क) जी, नहीं। रुपया-भुगतान क्षेत्रों से टायर आयात करने से पूर्व सरकार ने मांग तथा पूर्ति की स्थिति का ध्यानपूर्वक मूल्यांकन कर लिया था। उस समय देश में विद्यमान कमियों को पूरा करने के लिये आयात करना आवश्यक समझा गया था।