

Observations of an Inspecting officer of British Railway on Diesel Locomotive

*1250. SHRI MUHAMMAD SHERIFF : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the observations made by Mr. D. McMullen, a retired inspecting officer of British Railways while addressing officials of the Railway Board, that a diesel locomotive is more susceptible to derailment than a steam engine; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in regard there to ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) Mr. McMullen did not state that a diesel locomotive is more susceptible to derailment than a steam engine.

(b) Does not arise.

Railway Colony, Chittaranjan declared as a protected Area

*1251. SHRI BHAGABAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Colony at Chittaranjan has been declared or is being treated as a protected area by Government for quite a long time ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether any other Railway colony/township has similarly been declared or is being treated as a protected area ;

(d) if so; the details thereof ; and

(e) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the time by when Government propose to withdraw the protective measures to enable free movement and life of the inhabitants ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a to (e). No, Sir. The Railway Colony at Chittaranjan is not being treated as a protected area. However, some vital installations

of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works have been declared as prohibited places under the Indian Official Secrets Act, 1923.

Export of Newsprint

*1252. SHRI K. LAKKAPA :
SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that increase in the number of small newspapers in the country has hampered the export of newsprint from the country;

(b) whether any discussion has been held recently with the newsprint industry and leading newspaper managements in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to double the newsprint production with a view to increase exports ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) The country is currently producing only about 20% of the requirements of newsprint and the question of export of newsprint does not ordinarily arise.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At present about 80% of the country's requirements of Newsprint are imported. The following steps have been taken to increase indigenous production :

(i) The capacity of the existing Newsprint Mill in the country (Nepa Mills) is being increased from 30,000 to 75,000 tonnes per annum.

(ii) Proposals for establishment of fresh capacity for Newsprint are being considered on a priority basis.