

to yield 3500 tonnes of copper per annum. The scheme is now under examination. No target date has been set for the commencement of the Rakha project but it will take about 2-1½ years (30 months) to open a mine and start small scale production under this scheme.

Sabotage on Railways

*181. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any provision to save Railway property from damage, pilferage and loss by sabotage or students misbehaviour;

(b) the total loss of life and property, both public and private resulting from various acts of sabotage, students' unrest and otherwise during 1966-67; and

(c) in how many cases culprits were apprehended and punishment awarded to them and the reasons why others could not be traced?

The Minister of Railways (Sri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes Sir The State Government Police and Railway Protection Force are provided on the Railways to safeguard the railway property from damage, pilferage and loss by sabotage or students' misbehaviour

(b) 201 persons were killed and total loss to property has been estimated approximately at Rs. 3916 lakhs.

(c) In 79 cases, culprits were apprehended and in 2 cases punishment was awarded. The remaining cases are under police investigation under trial.

Exports and Imports

*182. Shri A. Sreedharan: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the practice of under-invoicing of exports by exporters and over-invoicing of imports especially by the subsidiary concerns of foreign firms operating in India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Some cases of under-invoicing of exports and over-invoicing of imports of firms including the subsidiary concerns of the foreign firms have come to notice

(b) Suitable action depending on the circumstances of each case is taken under the Customs Act 1962 and/or Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1947

Supply of Stainless Steel to Manufacturers

*183. Shri Maddi Sudarasanam: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to supply directly stainless steel to the manufacturers of stainless steel utensils and other commodities; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Steel Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise

Price of Rubber

*184. Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Shri Umanath:

Shri Nambiar:

Shri P. K. Vasudevan Nair:

Shrimati Suseela Gopalan:

Shri C. K. Chakrapani:

Shri C. Janardhanan:

Shri P. C. Adichan:

Shri Yashpal Singh:

Shri A. Sreedharan:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board has informed Government that the recent decline in the price of rubber was caused by the imports of rubber at a time when the production in India had considerably increased;