

Calcutta Bandh on 17th March, 1970, has been made.

(b) Rs. 6,100.

(c) Railway Protection Force/Railway Protection Special Force are being increasingly deployed to protect Railway property and to assist the State Police in handling such situations. Closest liaison is being maintained with the State Police authorities who deal with law and order, with a view to securing their assistance.

A bill has also been introduced in the Parliament to provide for deterrent punishment for causing damage or destruction to Railway property.

Steps are also taken to project before the public the baneful effects of destruction of national assets like the Railway property.

UTILISATION OF INSTALLED CAPACITIES DRUM AND BARREL INDUSTRY

*995. **Shri George Fernandes** : Will the Minister of Industrial Development, Internal Trade and Company Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2243 on the 10th March, 1970 regarding the shortage of raw material in Drum and Barrel Industry and state :

(a) whether Government would now consider making legal provisions in the interest of national economy so that existing installed capacities are fully utilised before setting up of new units in this industry ;

(b) if so, when the necessary provisions are likely to be made in this behalf ;

(c) whether the present import policy in force to issue licences for import of steel to the consumers in this industry instead of fabricators is not disastrous in the sense that the consumers, on receipt of steel sheets, supply the same to their choicest fabricators thus forcing other units to remain idle ; and

(d) if so, whether Government would now issue import licences to the fabricators only instead of the consumers on the basis of their licensed capacities so that all the

units could run their plants and are not to depend on the mercy of the consumers ?

The Minister of Industrial Development, Internal Trade and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed) : (a) and (b) The Notifications of the Government dated the 19th February, 1970 and 28th February, 1970 read with the Press Note dated 13th March, 1970 will show that the policy of the Government is to ensure greater freedom and opportunity for entrepreneurs, particularly small, medium groups and newer industrialists. At the same time, licensing of additional capacity will depend on the existing installed capacity and its utilisation.

(c) and (d) At present efforts are being made to allow import of steel sheets to barrel fabricators to the extent, that, imports along with indigenous allocation would enable all the fabricators to work upto their single shift assessed capacity. The policy of granting import licences to consumers who do not have fabricating capacity has all along been recognised and it cannot adversely affect the fabricators who can also make import applications after fulfilling the necessary conditions as laid down in the Import Policy.

DISCRIMINATION IN RAILWAY FREIGHTS FOR DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF SALT

*996. **Shri R. K. Amin** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a discrimination in the Railway freights in transporting salt classified in various categories ;

(b) whether this discrimination works against the interests of small manufacturers ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Nanda) : (a) No, Sir.

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