

(d) whether it is a fact that the Train Formation are always delayed and brought to the platform just about few minutes of their scheduled departure timings and sometimes even later, particularly at Hubli Station on the South Central Railway?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The water scarcity was only temporarily and was due to bursting of Municipal Water mains which supplies bulk of railway's requirements of water at Hubli. The trains services were maintained by use of railway's own water supply and by getting some locos watered at nearby station of Dharwar.

(d) The rakes of out-going trains from Hubli and other stations are normally berthed well in time except when owing to non-availability of platforms, as a result of precedence to more important trains running late, accidents, replacement of sick coaches etc., late berthing of train rakes becomes unavoidable.

#### Joint Trade Venture with Nepal

3567. Shri Yajna Datt Sharma: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nepal Government have sought joint trade ventures with Indian businessmen;

(b) if so, at what stage the matter stands at present;

(c) whether already there are any joint ventures with the Indian traders existing with Nepal; and

(d) if so, the main features thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinanath Singh): (a) and (b). During the trade talks held in Kathmandu in December, 1966, between the representatives of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and Government of India, the proposal for the formation of a Joint Industrial Co-operation

Council to aid and assist in the process of industrialisation of Nepal, was also discussed and it was agreed that such a Council may be set up as early as possible. The proposed terms of reference for the Council include inter-alia, co-operation between their respective Industrial Development Corporations and the preparation of feasibility studies and project reports. The terms of reference of the Council are being finalised in consultation with HMG Nepal.

(c) and (d). Indian industrialists have no their own already set up industries in Nepal for manufacture of woollen yarn and catechu. A cotton textile mill is also being set up as a joint venture. For this purpose, a Public Limited Company has been constituted with an authorised capital of Rs. 300 lakhs (N.C.) The proposed mill will have a production capacity of about 11,000 bales per annum, which is expected to be consumed in Nepal itself.

#### Location of Industries in Punjab

3568. Shri Yajna Datt Sharma: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government have approached the Centre for locating some industries in Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the industries suggested by the State Government; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

#### Staple Yarn Industry of Punjab

3569. Shri Yajna Datt Sharma: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that staple yarn industry of Punjab has suffered

a great set back due to the withdrawal of import subsidy scheme by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that textile industrialists of Amritsar and Ludhiana have represented to the Central Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to save this industry in the border State?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) to (c). Arising out of devaluation and consequent abolition of all export promotion schemes, the old export promotion scheme, for art silk fabric under which art silk fabrics exporters were allowed to import art silk yarn (synthetic nylon yarn) up to 70 per cent of the f.o.b. value of their exports has been abolished. This has resulted in a certain shortage in the availability of synthetic (nylon yarn). Cellulosic Viscose Filament yarn and staple fibre yarn production in the country has been progressively going up and quantitatively is enough to meet the indigenous need. Government have received representations from art silk weaving industry from Punjab and from other parts of the country complaining that high price of art silk yarn has affected many powerloom manufacturers of art silk fabrics and that this has resulted in under utilisation of established units or even closure of some small units. The Punjab Government has suggested that a Committee consisting of representatives of Government, spinners and weavers should study the cost structure of the spinners to find out reasonable prices at which the yarn should be sold to the weaving industry.

The difficulties of the weaving industry are known to Government and to help them an allotment of Rs. 4.5 crores in foreign exchange tied to foreign credits for import of synthetic yarn has been secured. These imports are to be made by S.T.C. There has been some delay in effecting imports being against tied credits.

A contract for supply of synthetic yarn to the extent of about Rs. 1 crore has since been signed by the State Trading Corporation with Japan and West Germany and goods are likely to be received in the country by the end of July. Local indigenous yarn prices have a close link with availability of synthetic yarn indigenously produced and imported. Once the imported synthetic yarn starts arriving, it is expected the indigenously produced viscose and staple fibre yarn prices will also tend to adjust themselves to reasonable levels. It is hoped that in the next few months, the weaving industry will be able to get their yarn at reasonable prices.

As regards the suggestion for a Committee consisting of spinners, weavers and Government to go into the cost structure of the spinners and fix a reasonable sale price of yarn to the weaving industry, this is also linked with the new excise duties that have been levied on rayon and synthetic fibre and yarn and is already under examination.

#### Use of Forged Currency Notes by Pakistani Pilgrims at Ferozepur Station

3516. Shri Yajna Datt Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether this attention has been drawn to a press report that a party of Pakistani pilgrims duped the railway authorities at Ferozepur Station by giving them forged currency notes of Rs. 100 each; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). According to a report dated 16th May, 1967 from the Sub-Divisional Officer, Government Railway Police Station, Ferozepur Cantt., a party of 48 Pakistani pilgrims, led by one Syed Ziauddin Ahmed, entered Indian territory on 10th May, 1967 at about 17.30 hrs. via Hussainiwala check-post with pro-