

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) to (d). There is only one grade of skilled workers on the Railways, namely, Rs. 110-3-131-4-143-EB-4-171-EB-4-175-5-180 and the posts in this category are filled by Trade Apprentices who are directly recruited and by promotion of Basic Tradesmen/Semi-skilled workers. The Trade Apprentices are given training and posted as skilled staff on successful completion of training period. The Basic Tradesmen/Semi-skilled Workers have to pass the prescribed skilled trade test before they are posted as skilled workers. There is no justification for allotment of two scales to skilled staff, one for the direct recruits and another for the promotees when there is no difference in the duties and responsibilities in the skilled grade.

Shortage of Jute

1944. Shri Deven Sen:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our jute industry is facing an acute crisis on account of the shortage of jute;

(b) the steps taken by Government to overcome this shortage;

(c) whether the exports of jute goods are falling; and

(d) the steps proposed to check this fall in export/export earnings?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi): (a) Due to three successive short crops of jute in the country, the industry had difficulties in meeting its requirements of the fibre.

(b) Besides intensive efforts being made to increase the production of jute in the country, liberal imports of raw jute are being allowed to

meet the gap between local supplies and demand.

(c) The exports of jute goods during 1966-67 (April-January) were of the order of 619,500 tonnes compared to 768,400 tonnes during the corresponding period of 1965-66 recording a fall of 148900 tonnes.

(d) A statement is attached.

Some of the important measures being taken to increase export/export earnings of jute goods are detailed below:—

- (1) Continuous efforts are being made to increase the production of raw jute and improve quality thereof by adoption of improved methods of cultivation;
- (2) A vigorous research programme to find out new and diverse uses for jute goods is being formulated to provide greater outlet for jute. Indian Jute Mills Association is currently undertaking a research programme in the U.S.A. in collaboration with a firm of industrial consultants (Fabric Research Laboratories) with the main objective of developing new uses of jute goods;
- (3) Compulsory Pre-shipment Inspection and Quality Control under the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 have been introduced with effort from 1st January, 1965;
- (4) Long term Trade Agreements with specific provision for export of jute goods have been negotiated with the U. S. S. R. and East European countries;
- (5) Export duties on jute manufactures are reviewed from time to time. As a result of recent review the duties

have been reduced on all varieties of jute manufactures as indicated below:—

(i) Carpet backing	} from Rs. 900/- to Rs. 600/- per tonne
(ii) Specialities	
(iii) Other Hessian	from Rs. 900/- to Rs. 750/- per tonne
(iv) Sackings	from Rs. 600/- to Rs. 450/- per tonne
(v) Cotton bagging	from Rs. 600/- to Rs. 200/- per tonne with effect from 11th February, 1967.

Export of Manganese

1345. Shri Deven Sen:
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a fall in the export of manganese in recent years;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to find new markets/regain or retain old ones;

(d) whether any targets have been fixed for the Fourth Plan; and

(e) the foreign exchange likely to be earned during this period?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reasons for fall in export chiefly are:—

- (i) Emergence of new sources of supply near the consuming countries.
- (ii) Increase in the production of captive mines of the consumers.
- (iii) Lesser dependence on manganese ore in steel production due to technological advances.
- (iv) The internal requirements of manganese ore in India are growing on account of increasing production of ferromanganese and steel.

(c) Agency arrangements have been made in various important manganese ore consuming countries to find new markets/regain or retain old ones. In order to keep good business relations, delegations of Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India visit the major consuming countries of manganese ore from time to time to explore sales possibilities and effect sales.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The extent of foreign exchange earning would depend upon price and other conditions prevailing in the international market. However, export earning during 1966-67 is approximately Rs. 14,14,80,000.

Railway Complaint Books

1346. Shri Nihal Singh:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that Complaint Books are not sometimes made available to bonafide passengers by the Railway Employees at some stations whenever they are in the wrong;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether Government's attention also been drawn to frivolous complaints and harassment caused by people who want to take undue advantage of the Railway employees; and

(d) whether Government propose to introduce a system of deposit of say Re. one or Rs. 2 so that only bonafide complaints are made and no harassment is caused to the honest railway employees?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Ponnappa): (a) Yes. Some complaints have been received to this effect.