

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b) : No, Sir.

(c) and (d) : Do not arise.

SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether during the past six months there has been any occasion when booking of wagons had to be suspended due to shortage of wagons as was reported in all the Malayalam newspapers.

SHRI BANSI LAL : Please repeat the question.

SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : What is the priority being given to the coconut products in regard to booking ?

SHRI BANSI LAL : The priority given to copra is 'C' and the priority given to coir is 'E'.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Would the hon. Minister tell us to how many wagons were required for the coconut products during the past one year and how many were supplied ?

SHRI BANSI LAL : The wagons supplied for copra from January to July were 587. In February they were 53 and in March they were 180.

Translation of Tagore's Works in Hindi and Regional Languages

*247. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Vishwa Bharati has placed any proposal to his Ministry for further translation of Tagore works in Hindi and regional languages at a cheaper price ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) : In June 1985, the Viswa-Bharati had made a proposal to bring out first the selected works and eventually the complete works of Tagore in Hindi translation at a low cost. The proposal also envisaged publication of Tagore's selected works in other languages. The Viswa-Bharati had estimated an expenditure of Rs. 2.0 lakhs for bringing out one volume each of short stories, songs and selected poems, Rs. 1.00 lakh each for translation of selected poems, songs and novels into Oriya, Arabic and Persian, and Rs. 1.00 crore for bringing out the complete works in Hindi translation. A decision on this proposal has not yet been taken.

On the occasion of the birth centenary of Tagore, his selected works were brought out by the Sahitya Akademi in different Indian languages. These works continue to be reprinted in several languages by the Sahitya Akademi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Sir, a prominent person who has been appointed by the Government of India as the Vice-Chancellor of the Vishwa Bharati University, Dr. Nimai Sadam Bose, had put forward a proposal to the Ministry just after the visit of our Prime Minister to Shanti Niketan. In view of the fact that Tagore's 125th birth anniversary will fall next year, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the proposal that was put forward by Vishwa Bharati before the Ministry for Rs. one-crore project for the publication of the selected works of Tagore in Hindi language, will be immediately taken up so that they can proceed further, and if so, what will be the modus operandi to select the scholars who will go in for translation ? I have seen some translations in Hindi as well as in English of the famous story of Tagore 'Hungry Stone' available in the market. It is an atrocious translation and the people can hardly get the spirit that Tagore wanted to explain in this document. Therefore, I would like to know that after it is

decided to sanction this project to publish this document, what will be the modus operandi and how will it be distributed in the country. In West Bengal, after it was published in Bengali, people are still in the queue for the last ten years to get this volume of selected works. That is the precise point I would like to know from the hon. Minister.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Frankly speaking, I tried to understand this problem and I am not very clear about the availability of Tagore's books in Bengali because Vishwa Bharati had earlier published some of Tagore's works and the West Bengal Government also published some books in 1961 at the time of the centenary of Tagore. Some of those books are still with Vishwa Bharati. Now there are two proposals which have come from Vishwa Bharati. One is for translation into Hindi and other languages which was done earlier also. But the West Bengal Government has come up with a proposal and the Vishwa Bharati has come up with another proposal for the 125th anniversary of Tagore. Both these proposals are with respect to Bengali editions and not with respect to translations. Therefore, all these matters will have to be gone into, in regard to the number of books which have remained unsold, why they have remained unsold as well as this question of how to produce translations which apparently have been quite popular in other States of the country. In July this proposal was received and I think it will need some more time to go into these aspects.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : In view of the fact that it is the centenary year of the Indian National Congress, may I know from the hon. Minister ..

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : 17th year, not 100th year.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I did not say, 17th year.

Madhu Ji might be reading the history which he prepares himself.

It is Tagore who had sung the first song on national unity long before the Indian National Congress was born at Calcutta. The famous song in Bengali was : "EKI SUTRE BANDHIACHHEE SAHASRATI MAN." "In one rope we have tied the whole of India together."

So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he will make available to the younger generation of this country the actual thought of Tagore in Hindi precisely because largely the people go by that language ? Such a document on Tagore and National Movement that identifies the equations with Mahatma Gandhi, Neta Ji and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru can be published with the initiative of the National Book Trust and readily made available to the students and the younger people of this country. The three prominent songs which Tagore had sung while Gandhi Ji was on fast in Yerwada Jail in Pune were dedicated to Neta Ji, to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Gandhi Ji. They are so much inspiring for the national unity, but it is a pity that hardly people of this country know of them excepting those who read Bengali language. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will take an initiative to make a document on Tagore and National Movement in Hindi and other Indian languages ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, I find myself on the same wavelength as my hon. friend is, but as to when and how any particular suggestion is to be implemented various things will have to be looked into.

Now, among the works of Tagore which have been vriygght our earlier relation to Hindi editions, there were a number of which were in the original Bengali text, but in Devnagri script, some with translations and some with notes. This had been produced by the Sahitya Akademi earlier. But apart

from this Tegore's poems and other pieces of literature have been published in seventeen languages, including Hindi and as I said these have proved to be popular.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : My question was different I said whether the Hon. Minister will consider the National Book Trust as to publish a document on Tagore and National Movement. But he has given a different answer in regard to translations of various books.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sometimes I give him extra information. This is my mistake.

SHRI R. P. DAS : Sir, it is true that there are problems in translations of Rabindra Nath Tegore's contributions into Hindi and other regional languages. I think the National Book Trust will have to take up the matter for translation. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister it is a fact that Rabindra Nath Tegore and the Vishwabharati, the celebrated centre of modern Indian literature, art and dance, drama, music and painting have been totally or partially neglected or discarded in the programme of the Festival of India and, if so, the reasons therefor. And if not, why the Vishwabharati has not been mentioned in the programme of the Festival of India that was held in France recently and that is now being held in the USA? Why is it that in the exhibition of the Festival of India in France and now being held in the USA more emphasis has been laid on the medieval and ancient history rather than on the modern times?

SHRI K. C. PANT : I think it would be irresponsible on my part to answer this question without knowing full facts.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : Among the vast works of Rabindra Nath Tegore, there are so many works touching national unity and national integrity.

There are not only songs but there are dramas and various other things including essays. In view of the fact that is an important thing, we should do something for our national integration and national unity. May I know whether there is any proposal with the Government to select those works from the works of Rabindranath Tegore and publish the same in the different languages—not only in Hindi but in all other languages—in order to improve the atmosphere on national unity and national integration? If not may I know whether they will consider the said proposal?

SHRI K. C. PANT : I will read out the languages so that the House knows in how many languages the works have been published. The Sahitya Akademi has published the works of Rabindranath Tegore in the following 17 languages :

Assamese

Bengali

English

Gujarati

Hindi

Kannada

Kashmiri

Malayalam

Manipuri

Marathi

Nepali

Oriya

Punjabi

Sindhi

Tamil

Telugu, and

Urdu.