

May 6, 1967. The contract for technical supervision by the Soviet experts during the erection of machinery has also been signed on May 6, 1967. The Detailed Project Report submitted by M/s Machinoexport has been approved subject to some modifications.

Loco running staff on the S. Railway

2765. Shri Nambiar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Loco Running Staff particularly Firemen and Khalasis have remained unconfirmed even after 5 to 8 years of service on the Southern Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to confirm these categories of workmen,

(d) whether this category of workmen lose their emoluments in calculation of average O.T. and mileage due to this?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Confirmations depend on the availability of permanent posts. Necessary steps are taken towards determining such posts based on the worth of charge.

(d) No.

Railway Pay Clerks

2766. Shri Nambiar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Pay Clerks are being compelled to be on duty for more than 24 hours continuously by making it imperative on their part not to leave the room where the cash chest is kept during nights after the day's cash payments are made;

(b) whether it is not the practice to lock and seal the Cash Rooms with armed sentry guarding the room during nights; and

(c) the action taken to implement the Hours of Employment Regulations with regard to this Category of employees?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) No.

(b) The practice is to lock and seal the Cash Rooms with armed sentries guarding

(c) Pay clerks on Railways are already governed by the provisions of Hours of Employment Regulations

Concentration of Economic Power in Private Sector

2767. Shri Shiva Chandra Jha: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact that both the Mahalanobis Committee's Report and the Monopolies Commission's Report pointed out that there has been tremendous concentration of economic power in the private sector since the launching of the Five Year Plans; and

(b) if so, the action taken to curb the concentration process?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) The two Reports indicate various facts of concentration of economic power in private sector.

The Mahalanobis Committee on Distribution of Income and Levels of Living found that, despite all the countervailing measures taken by the State, "concentration of economic power in the private sector is more than what could be justified as necessary on functional grounds."

The majority report of the Monopolies Inquiry Commission has referred to two types of concentration, termed by them as "industry-wise or product-wise" concentration and "country-wise" concentration. In regard to the former, the Commission found that in respect of a number of products, such

concentration does exist in the form of a limited number of producers having a comparatively large share of the market. In regard to the latter, viz., "country-wise concentration", the Commission came to the conclusion that a certain measure of such concentration also exists. The majority view, however, was that such "concentration has helped the economic betterment of the country." The Commission has also referred to certain evil effects of concentrated economic power in the country's economy, such as "risk of emergence of monopolies, high prices for the consumer, deterioration in quality and last, but not the least, keeping out the small industrialists."

(b) The action that the Government propose to take is indicated in its Resolution dated the 5th September, 1966 laid before the House on 6th September, 1966.

Rourkela Steel Plant

2768. Shri D. Amat: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have enquired into the breakdown on the 11th January, 1966 in the power plant of Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) the amount of loss involved due to the breakdown;

(c) whether it was due to the negligence of the employees; and

(d) if so, the action taken against them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) Yes, Sir. The breakdown in the power plant of the Rourkela Steel Plant occurred on January 13, 1966 and not on January 11, 1966. The incident was inquired into by a high powered committee appointed by the General Manager, Rourkela for the purpose.

(b) The loss in production due to breakdown has been estimated at Rs. 7.28 lacs.

(c) and (d). As the party held responsible for the breakdown died in the incident, no further action was possible.

Rourkela Steel Plant Township

2769. Shri D. Amat: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lands have been allotted to particular individuals in the Civil township area of Hindustan Steel Plant, Rourkela out of the lands acquired for the public purpose; and

(b) if so, the number of the individuals to whom lands have been so allotted and the basis on which they got land for private business purpose?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) and (b). As per information received from Rourkela Steel Plant, land has been allotted to five individuals to carry on business relating to some important public needs and amenities such as Cinemas, Service Stations etc. The allotment has been made by the competent authorities after proper scrutiny in accordance with the powers delegated to them. In some of the cases, allotment has been made on the basis of recommendations from the civil authorities.

Commodity Boards

2770. Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri C. Janardhanan:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the chairmen of the various Commodity Boards was held recently at Ernakulam; and

(b) if so, the main topics discussed and the decisions taken?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Yes, Sir. A joint meeting of Chairmen of different Commodity (Plantation) Boards was held at Ernakulam on the 12th May 1967.