

(b) whether as a result of these steps, there has been any improvement in the situation; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) The steps to combat recession listed in reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2629 on 1st December, 1967 are comprehensive and beyond intensifying these efforts no further steps have been initiated in the matter.

(b) and (c). As a result of the steps taken, it can generally be stated that the production in the industries more affected by recession has started looking up; it is, however, a little too early to state in more precise term the extent of improvement in the situation.

Shortfall in Railway Earnings

*19. **SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA:**
SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a record shortfall in the earnings of the Railways during the first eight months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the earnings of the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) The earnings of the first 8 months of the current year are about 2.4 per cent less than the budget proportion for that period.

(b) The main reason for the shortfall in earnings in the prevailing recession in economic activity.

(c) Efforts are being made to secure more traffic for the Railways, by improving the quality of service offered, like adequate and timely supply of wagons, speeding up transit and ensuring safe transit. Rate ad-

justments are also made where justified.

Second UNCTAD Conference

*20. **SHRI DEIVEEKAN:**
SHRI HEM BARUA:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI:
SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries which participated in the Second UNCTAD Conference; and

(b) the subjects being discussed in the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b). A list of countries which are participating in the Second UNCTAD and the Agenda adopted for discussion in the Conference are placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-18/68.]

British Steel Corporation Experts

*21. **SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE:**
SHRI P. RAMAMURTI:
SHRI GANESH GHOSH:
SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI:
SHRI T. D. RAMABADRAN:
SHRI MAYAVAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of British Steel Corporation experts visited India in 1968;

(b) if so, the purpose of their visit;

(c) whether they have submitted any report; and

(d) if so, the main findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. A team of experts sponsored by the British Steel Corporation arrived in India on 29th January, 1968.

(b) The Team will appraise the requirements of the Durgapur Steelworks needed for fully effective opo-