

of passenger cars that they should be allowed to increase the prices of their cars immediately on an *ad hoc* basis on the ground that they were incurring considerable losses by selling their cars at the approved prices. It was hinted in these representations that in case there was further delay in taking a decision on the Report (1968) of the Tariff Commission on the Fixation of Fair Selling Prices of Automobiles, they might increase the prices of their cars unilaterally.

(b) The three car manufacturers were informed that it will not be possible for Government to allow any interim increases in the prices of passenger cars on an *ad hoc* basis pending a decision on the Report (1968), of the Tariff Commission on the Fixation of Fair Selling Prices of Automobiles. They were also informed that Government would expect them to revise the prices only after Government's formal approval had been obtained.

Durgapur Steel Plant

*195. SHRI R. V. NAIK:
SHRI S. ZAVIER:
SHRI G. C. NAIK:
SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO:
SHRI J. MOHAMAD IMAM:
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government accept the view of the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal that the Durgapur Steel Plant is still sick;

(b) if so, the efforts, if any, made by the Government of India to streamline the plant; and

(c) whether any assessment of total losses suffered by the plant till the last year has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (b). The performance of the Durgapur Steel Plant has not been satisfactory for some time and still continues to be so. A one-man Expert

Committee under Shri G. Pande was constituted in 1966 to go into all aspects of the working of the Plant. On the basis of the recommendations of the Pande Committee, certain remedial measures have already been taken and further, a Technical Team of the British Steel Corporation also visited the Plant and reviewed its working early last year and made a number of recommendations. Steps are being taken to improve the working of the Plant as recommended by this Team. After all this, real improvement in terms of production depends largely on the restoration of normalcy of industrial relations in the Durgapur Steel Plant.

(c) The total loss suffered by Durgapur Steel Plant till the end of 1968-69 was of the order of Rs. 69 crores.

Suspension of Railway Employees in connection with September, 1968, Strike

*196. SHRI NARAIN SWARUP SHARMA:
SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK:
SHRI P. M. SAYEED:
SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Railway employees, both temporary and permanent, who were suspended, whose services were terminated in connection with September, 1968 strike and who have not been reinstated so far;

(b) what is their break-up Railways-wise, and category-wise;

(c) the specific reasons against their re-instatement; and

(d) how many cases are still pending and how long it will take to settle them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1408/69].