

both for aerial surveys and the follow-up ground geological work and diamond drilling. The loan carries an interest of 1% for the first 10 years and 2½% thereafter, and is repayable within a period of 40 years in 61 approximately equal instalments, the first instalment being payable 10 years after the first drawal against the loan.

Production of Trucks

*290. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 380 on the 4th March, 1966 and state:

(a) whether any progress has been made to increase the capacity of Truck production on the lines of light commercial vehicles; and

(b) whether the question of setting up of additional capacity for commercial vehicles is proposed to be taken up during the Fourth Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) and (b). There has been no change in the position as the Fourth Plan targets of demand and production of Commercial Vehicles, including light commercial vehicles, have not yet been finalised. The question of setting up additional production capacity for these vehicles will be considered after the Fourth Plan targets are decided.

Manhandling of M.P.s. at Howrah Station

*291. **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Krishnapal Singh:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri D. B. Raju:
Dr. P. Srinivasan:
Shri Kajrolkar:
Shri Kapur Singh:

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Shri Buta Singh:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Daljit Singh:
Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has seen the report published in the 'Times of India' dated the 31st May, 1966 in which failure of the authorities to provide protection to a team of M.P.s. who were travelling by train from Howrah to Rourkela has been alleged;

(b) whether any enquiry has been made in the matter; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The findings of the Administrative Officers' enquiry are as follows:—

(i) Arrangements were made for the journey of the Members of Parliament in a special First Class bogie for their journey from Howrah to Rourkela by 323 Up Express on 25-5-66. Arrangements were also made to look after the comforts and the catering needs of the Members of Parliament. There was thus no failure on the part of the Railway authorities to look after the Members of Parliament.

(ii) There was no evidence forthcoming during the enquiry that any brickbats were thrown at the coach occupied by the M.P.s., but it was established that a section of the crowd banged on the compartment windows of the M.P.s.' bogie with fists and umbrellas, which had caused some damage to the window glass panes.

- (iii) No evidence was brought out at the Enquiry to indicate that there were attempts made to burn the coach occupied by the M.Ps.
- (iv) From the evidence recorded at the Enquiry it was brought out that the Railway officials present at Howrah station did their utmost to carry out their duties in spite of consequent threats and intimidation by the passengers who caused the disturbances.
- (v) Seeing the disturbances, two Government Railway Police armed escorts were arranged by 323 Up Express by which the Members of Parliament travelled.

Machine Tool Institute, Bangalore

*292. **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Machine Tool Institute, Bangalore has started functioning;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any foreign expert has already come to work in this Institute?

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Electrification of S.E. Railway

*293. **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the up-to-date progress in the preliminary works for the electrifica-

tion of Howrah-Kharagpur section of the S.E. Railway;

(b) when the remodelling of various stations is expected to be completed;

(c) whether any new halt stations are proposed to be opened on this section;

(d) if so, the number and location thereof; and

(e) the number of applications received for opening halts and how they have been dealt with?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath):

(a) All the preliminary works have been completed. Contracts have been awarded for the various items of electrification work which are progressing according to schedule.

(b) It is expected that the remodelling of all the station yards will be completed by April, 1967.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Three applications were received for opening of halt and flag stations on the Howrah-Kharagpur section as under:

(i) A train halt between Bhogpur and Panskura stations;

(ii) A train halt at Ghorghata between Bagnan and Deulti stations;

(iii) A flag station at Dasnagar between Howrah and Ramrajatala stations.

The proposals were considered but could not be accepted for want of adequate justification.

They will, however, be reviewed if the traffic prospects improve.