

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) and (b). The applications for the manufacture of Autocycles have been finally considered and letters of intent, valid for a period of one year each, have been issued to five parties, for a capacity of 50,000 each per year. Further consideration of the applications for the manufacture of scooters has however been deferred for the present. It is proposed to watch the progress and performance of the existing units in the context of the assistance afforded to them under the liberalised import policy, for components and raw materials before, taking a final view on the question of licensing of additional units in the field.

Forged Railway Tickets

816. Shri Khagapathi Pradhani:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Heerji Bhal:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to re'er to the reply given to Starred Question No. 837 on the 2nd December, 1966 regarding the sale of forged Railway tickets and state:

- (a) whether the investigations have since been completed; and
(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) The investigation of the case is still in progress.

- (b) Does not arise.

Reorganisation of the National Coal Development Corporation

817. Shri Heerji Bhal:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Khagapathi Pradhani:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 515 on the 25th November, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the question of the re-organisation of the National Coal Development Corporation has since been examined; and

- (b) if so, the results thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) and (b). No final view has yet been taken by Government on the reorganisation of the National Coal Development Corporation. The matter is being examined in consultation with the newly appointed Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the N.C.D.C.

Closure of Textile Mills

818. Shri S. B. Damani: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the effect of the closure of the textile mills for one extra day in a week since December, 1966;

(b) the adverse effect thereof on (i) the working of the textile mills and (ii) the profitability of the textile mills; and

(c) the loss of revenue through excise duty, income-tax and sales tax to the nation and the Public Exchequer respectively?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shaif Qureshi):

(a) There has been a saving of about 75,000 bales per month in the consumption of cotton by mills as a result of the extra weekly holiday.

(b) The cost of production is reported to have gone up by about 4½ per cent. As 60 per cent of the mill production is outside statutory price control, there may be no adverse effects on the over all profitability of the mills.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.