

(b) if so, whether India participated in that meeting;

(c) the main decisions arrived at the meeting; and

(d) to what extent India is benefited by the same?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-411/87].

आस्ट्रेलिया द्वारा रेलवे के सामान की खरीद

537. श्री विभूति मिश्र :

श्री क० ना० तिवारी :

श्री एस० प्रार० दामानी :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि आस्ट्रेलिया की सरकार भारत में निर्मित रेलवे के सामान की खरीद की संभावना का पता लगा रही है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसका ब्योरा क्या है ?

रेलवे मंत्री (श्री० यु० पुताब) :

(क) जी नहीं।

(ख) सवाल नहीं उठता।

Watch Factories with Soviet Collaboration

538. श्री S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:  
Shri Ram Gopal Shalwale:  
Shri Manibhai J. Patel:  
Shri Y. S. Kushwah:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new watch factories with Soviet collaboration are to be established in the country;

(b) if so, the terms of the collaboration; and

(c) whether these factories will start production in the Fourth Plan period?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) Yes, Sir. Approval to set up two watch factories with Soviet Collaboration has been granted to two private parties.

(b) The terms of collaboration are under examination.

(c) It is hoped that these factories will start production in the Fourth Plan Period.

Closure of Textile Mills on alternative Saturdays

539. श्री S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:  
Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that closing of textile mills on alternate Saturdays has been opposed by all the Trade Unions;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider the whole matter;

(c) whether concentration of cotton in the hands of a few has been discouraged; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to unearth such cotton bales?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shaif Qureshi): (a) and (b), Government have not received any representation from Trade Unions against the extra closure every alternate week effective from 10th April, 1967. In any case, keeping in view the cotton shortage and the liberalisation of the compulsory closure, Government do not propose to reconsider the matter just yet.

(c) and (d). Limitations on stocks of cotton that can be held by mills coupled with the credit restriction in respect of cotton and requalifying of