

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking to avert this difficulty?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri F. C. Sethi): (a) It is proposed to set up new washeries to meet the requirements of washed coal which may arise when the Fourth Plan capacity programme materialises. Their estimated cost is related to the capacity as also the general increase in prices.

(b) and (c). There are, sometimes, temporary imbalances between supply and demand of washed coal but there is no surplus of washed coal at present.

#### Shortage of Raw Materials

563. Dr. Ranen Sen: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sudden fall in the supply of raw materials and supply orders from the Government of India have resulted in causing a slump in certain industries in India; and

(b) if so, how Government envisage to help the industries to tide over the difficulties?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) and (b). Under the liberalised import policy, the Priority Industries which cover the major portion of industrial production are being allowed the import of raw materials, components and spares at full capacity level of production. Even the non Priority Industries are being allowed to apply for the import of raw materials, components and spares covering their requirements for six months after utilising the previous set of licence to

the extent of 90 per cent by way of opening letters of credit or 80 per cent by way of actual importation.

There are however certain industries like Wagon Manufacture, light and heavy structurals, boilers, sulphuric acid, hydrogen Peroxide, formaldehyde etc. which are facing temporary recession due to fall in demand, shortage of raw materials and internal problems. It is anticipated that with diversification of Production programme and easement in the availability of the needed raw materials, greater utilisation of capacity in these industries would become possible.

#### Trade with Canada

563. Dr. Ranen Sen:

Shri Yashpal Singh:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri Mohan Swarup:  
Shri Manbhai J. Patel:  
Shri R. S. Vidyarthi:  
Shri Hukam Chand Kachwal:  
Shri Ram Singh Ayarwal:  
Shri S. R. Damani:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a non-official team from Canada had talks with Government's representatives in the middle of April, 1967 for promotion of economic relations between Canada and India;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been arrived at; and

(c) if so, the nature of the agreement?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Yes, Sir. The Delegation consisted of non-officials, but was led by Mr. R. R. Lofmark, Minister of Industrial Development, Trade and Commerce of British Columbia.

(b) and (c). No agreement at government level was envisaged. The talks which the delegation had with Government officials and businessmen were of an exploratory nature to find

ways and means for closer collaboration between India and British Columbia in the fields of trade and joint ventures.

#### Remodelling of Railway Yards

564. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any provision has been made for remodelling of Railway yards at Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack Stations in 1967-68;

(b) if so, the provisions for each of these yards; and

(c) the nature of extension and improvements proposed to be made?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). The yard at Khurda Road is being expanded at a cost of Rs. 80.70 lakhs as part of Khurda Road-Bhusandpur doubling, and a sum of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been provided as outlay for 1967-68. No provision exists for remodelling of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar yards in 1967-68.

(c) The extension and improvements proposed to be made at Khurda Road are as under:

- (i) One additional Island platform—1375' long;
- (ii) Extension of two existing platforms to suit 1375' length;
- (iii) Provision of a new foot-over bridge connecting the new platform;
- (iv) IRS type passenger platform cover on the new Island platform; and
- (v) 3 additional goods reception lines, sorting lines and shunting neck.

#### Railway Hostels in Orissa

565. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of Railway hostels in Orissa;

(b) the present number of Railway hostel in Orissa for the children of Railway employees; and

(c) the total strength of boarders in these hostels?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) No.

(b) One Subsidised Hostel (at Cuttack).

(c) Forty-nine as on 31-3-1967.

#### Retrenchment in Signal Deptt. of Eastern Railway, Asansol

566. Shri Deven Sen: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether 30 employees of the Signal Department Eastern Railway, Asansol, District Burdwan have been retrenched on or from the 19th April, 1967;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of the retrenched persons have been in service for more than 2 to 7 years;

(d) the steps Government propose to take for their immediate re-employment; and

(e) whether there is a proposal for further retrenchment in Eastern Railway at Asansol, particularly in the Loco Cleaning Section, Carriage and Wagon Department and also in Traffic Department?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.