

of the Santhanam Committee in this regard have been considered by Government; and

(c) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The recommendation was not found acceptable.

#### New Railway Lines in Orissa

571. Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:  
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new railway lines are proposed to be undertaken in Orissa during 1967-68;

(b) whether the State Government have suggested any new Railway line connecting Rourkela with Talcher and whether Government have finally decided about the matter; and

(c) whether Engineering and traffic surveys for the Cuttack-Paradeep Rail-Link has been completed?

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

(b) Yes. Past investigations have revealed that this line would not be financially justified.

(c) Not yet.

#### Ban on Export of Scrap Iron

572. Shri K. E. Ganesh:  
Shri Chandrajit Yadav:  
Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:  
Shri H. P. Chatterjee:  
Shri D. K. Kunte:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri Yashpal Singh:  
Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ban the export of scrap iron;

(b) if so, from when;

(c) the total quantity of scrap iron needed annually by the Engineering industries of the country; and

(d) the quantity of scrap iron exported in 1965-66 and 1966-67 respectively and the value thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel Mines and Metals (Shri F. C. Sethi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The information is not readily available. It may, however, be mentioned that scrap which is surplus to domestic requirements and which is generally not used in our furnaces is allowed to be exported.

(d) (i) 1965-66: 4,46,429 tonnes valued at about Rs. 550 lakhs (FOB).

(ii) 1966-67 (upto January, 1967): 4,51,514 tonnes valued at about Rs. 745 lakhs (FOB).

#### Birla Group of Companies

573. Shri Madhu Limaye:  
Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri George Fernandes:  
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:  
Shri S. M. Joshi:  
Shri Sarjoo Fadey:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the study made by Mr. Hazari of the Planning Commission into the lion's share obtained by the Birla Group of Companies in the industrial licences issued after the independence;

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the various malpractices and irregularities committed by the Birla Group and the undesirable methods used by them to obtain these licences;

(c) whether any legal proceedings against the Birla Group of Companies have been taken;

(d) whether some of these firms have been black-listed on the ground of these irregularities and malpractices; and

(e) if the reply to parts (c) and (d) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) Government have taken note of the observations made by Dr. Hazari in his Report regarding the number of licences approved for Birla Group of companies.

(b) No specific instances of irregularities or malpractices committed by the Birla Group in securing industrial licences have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

**Theft of Railway property at Jamalpur Station**

574. Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:  
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:  
Shri George Fernandes:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3468 on the 28th August, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the police investigation into the theft of railway property, viz., scrap, copper plates and scrap benches at Jamalpur has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Fozacha): (a) and (b). The Government Railway Police, Jamalpur after completing their investigation have submitted charge sheets against contractor and six others under sections 409/406/379/411/34/109/119 I.P.C.

and section 3 of Railway Stores (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1955. Three railway employees found involved in this connection have been placed under suspension. The case is still under trial.

**Ashoka Marketing Limited**

575. Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:  
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:  
Shri George Fernandes:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 780 on the 7th April, 1967 and state:

(a) whether the arbitrator has since decided the question of allowing the Ashoka Marketing Limited, the loss of \$ 733,758 on their transaction with American buyers;

(b) the stage reached in the investigation of the Company's Affairs under sections, 237(b) and 249(1) (a) of the Companies Act and the Writ Petition and appeals in the Calcutta High Court; and

(c) whether there has been any delay in the disposal of the arbitration/Writ/appeals in respect of this Company?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) No, Sir. The Government understand that in January last, the company referred the matter to the arbitration of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta. The company filed with the arbitrators its statement of the case after the Chamber agreed to act as arbitrators. The arbitrators have sent a copy of the statement to the parties in the United States to enable the latter to file their reply. It is learnt that the matter will be set down for hearing as soon as the parties in the States send in their reply.