

Eastern Railway Foreign Traffic Accounts Office, Delhi since the 10th July, 1953; and

(b) the total number of quarters (C.P.W.D. and Railway quarters, separately) occupied by the staff of the Western Railway Foreign Traffic Accounts Office, Delhi but surrendered on account of retirements, promotions and transfers since the 10th July, 1953?

**The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha):** (a) No Foreign Traffic Accounts Office of the Eastern Railway existed at Delhi on 10th July, 1953 nor is there any now.

(b) 23 (16 Railway quarters 7 C.P.W.D. quarters).

#### **Evasion of Sales Tax in Collusion with Railway Officials**

**7199. Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar has complained that the State's traders were evading sales tax in collusion with the Railway officials; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter so far as Railway officials are concerned?

**The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha):** (a) The Deputy Chief Minister, Bihar, has brought to the notice of the Railway Ministry that railway staff do not always help in the realization of sales tax by insisting on the consignee obtaining on the Railway Receipt countersignatures of sales tax authorities as evidence of the tax having been paid.

(b) As carriers' the Railways cannot refuse to deliver a consignment on production of the Railway Receipt on the ground that it does not bear such countersignatures. There is no question, therefore, of action being taken against railway staff for delivering consignments in the absence of such countersignatures.

#### **Mazumdar Committee on Steel Plants**

**7200. Shri Chintamanj Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether an assessment of the existing industrial capacity that could be tapped for establishing steel plants is being made by a Committee headed by Shri Ajit Mazumdar;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Channa Reddy):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The report is expected to be submitted by November, 1967.

#### **Apprentice Mechanics**

**7201. Shri S. C. Besra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3145 on the 2nd December, 1966 and state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that 20 apprentice mechanics of 1951 batch (EIR) working on the Northern Railway have been placed junior to the trainee Journeymen selected in 1954, 1955 and 1956, who (Trainee Journeymen) completed their training on the 1st October, 1957 and 31st March, 1958, while the former completed their apprenticeship six months earlier than the later; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Roll Foundry Projects, Jamshedpur**

**7202. Shri Parthasarathy:** Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposed Roll Foundry Project at Jamshedpur in Bihar has not been