

(d) if so, whether it is a fact that this part of the agreement was never published or at least adequately publicised.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The trade agreements were not revised after devaluation; but as some importers had included a parity clause in their contracts, they had to pay 57.5% more in Rupees. The exporters were also unable to fulfil their contracts as they had to pay export duty. So *ad hoc* arrangements were made to revalue the unimplemented contracts both for imports and exports.

(d) Does not arise.

#### TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH EAST-EUROPEAN STATES

4438. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that trade agreements with East-European States do not specifically provide for the settlement of balances in convertible currency;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have, in fact, settled these balances in convertible currency since 1960; and

(c) if so, the amounts so settled and the currencies which they were so settled ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### IMPORT OF MACHINERY BY STC

4439. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of machinery of various kinds other than textile machi-

nery imported by STC that is lying in various Warehouses and the amount of warehouse charges and interest paid every-month thereon; and

(b) the reasons for keeping such machinery idle for a long time and the action which Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Machinery and spare valued at Rs. 6.01 lakhs is stored by STC on behalf of their business associate. The warehouse charges are approximately Rs. 750/- per month. Interest on the blocked funds of STC is to be recovered in the form of STC's normal service charges.

(b) This is a business transaction between STC and its associate and as such Government does not intend to take any action. The business associate of the Corporation has not been able to sell the goods due to devaluation of Indian rupee followed by recession in the Engineering Industry. Ways and means for the disposal of the machinery are, however, being considered.

#### GRANT OF LICENCES TO BIRLA FIRMS

4440. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : SHRI K. HALDER :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that advice has been given to all Government Departments that no further licences should be granted to the Birla firm;

(b) whether all Departments of Government have been supplied with an exhaustive list of the Birla firms; and

(c) if so, the names of firms and concerns belonging to the house of Birlas ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Monopolies Enquiry Commission Report has listed certain firms/companies as belonging to the Birla Group. In his Report "The Structure of the Corporate Private Sector. A Study of Concentration, Ownership and Control" submitted to the Planning Commission, Dr. R. K. Hazari has also given a list of firms/companies which have been classified as Birla firms. No list of Birla firms has been formally circulated to the Departments of Government of India.

#### SECURITY OFFICERS OF DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT

4441. SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether three senior security officers, all in the cadre of I.P.S. were forced to leave Durgapur Steel Plant during the past three years, the last of them leaving in October, 1967;

(b) whether all of them had to leave before the expiry of their tenure; and

(c) whether authorities had taken no action on the suggestion of these Officers ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY) : (a) to (c). Only two Senior Security Officers of the IPS cadre have left Durgapur Steel Plant during the last three years before the expiry of the prescribed period of their deputation. The third officer is presently on leave from 16th October, 1967. The two officers left primarily because of certain differences with the Management on the line of reporting.

#### LATE RUNNING OF TRAINS

4442. SHRI RANDHIR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps taken by Government (i) to avoid late running of trains; (ii) to check thefts, dacoities and other crimes in running trains, and (iii) to check railway accidents during the last six months ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (i) Steps taken to avoid late running of trains are as under :—

- (a) A close watch is kept at all levels on day to day running of passenger carrying trains and causes affecting their performance scrutinised.
  - (b) Special punctuality drives are launched from time to time in respect of trains which are found to run persistently late.
  - (c) Deterrant action is taken against staff found responsible for avoidable detentions.
  - (d) To minimise the incidence of detentions due to frequent misuse of alarm chain apparatus, special squads of Travelling Ticket Examiners and RPF personnel are deputed to travel by the affected trains.
- (ii) Steps taken to check thefts, dacoities and other crimes in running trains :—
1. Important trains and trains passing through affected areas are escorted by Government Railway Police.
  2. A close surveillance on the criminals operating on railways is kept by State Police.
  3. Special detective staff are drafted to collect intelligence which is passed on to State Police for necessary action.
  4. Perpetual contacts are maintained between Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police for giving timely information in regard to incidents of crimes taking place on Railways.
  5. Announcements are made through Loud Speakers and through notices warning the passengers to be alert and beware of pick pockets and other anti-social elements;
  6. Instructions exist that all night trains at starting stations should