

COPPER MINES

5416. **SHRI BABURAO PATEL:** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and places of copper mines with names of their owners and the annual output of copper from each copper mine during the last three years;

(b) the amount allocated for increasing the production target of copper during the Fourth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange spent every year in the import of non-ferrous metals including copper?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY):

(a) There are at present three copper mines in the country (Musabani, Surda and Patharghora—all in Bihar), all belonging to Indian Copper Corporation Limited. The production of copper from these mines are as follows:

1964	.	.	9475 tonnes
1965	.	.	9360 tonnes
1966	.	.	9333 tonnes

(b) The Fourth Plan has not yet been finalised.

(c) The amount of foreign exchange spent in the import of non-ferrous metals including copper is as follows:

1965-66	.	.	Rs. 68.75 crores
1966-67	.	.	Rs. 81.96 crores
1967-68	.	.	Rs. 48.08 crores

(upto August 1967).

BRITISH INDIA CORPORATION

5417. **SHRI BABURAO PATEL:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the late Prime Minister Nehru's letter dated the 2nd September, 1962 to the former Minister of Industries, Shri K. C. Reddy, regarding the British India Corporation, as reproduced in the 'Blitz' of 14th November, 1967 is correct; and

(b) if so, how did this official letter leak out to the newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) The wording of the extracts of late Prime Minister's letter dated the 2nd September, 1962 as also the sequence in which portions thereof

have been reproduced in the 'Blitz' of 14th November, 1967 differ from the Prime Minister's letter, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the House in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3677-K. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2164/67].

(b) The matter is being looked into.

PASSES TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

5418. **SHRI BABURAO PATEL:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees, on each railway, in the pay zones of below Rs. 100, Rs. 100 and over up to Rs. 300, Rs. 300 and over up to Rs. 1000 and Rs. 1000 and over up to Rs. 3000 and over;

(b) the number of free passes issued, class-wise, to them and their dependents during the year ending the 31st March, 1967 and the approximate total cost of these free passes to the Railways;

(c) whether Government are aware that this free pass privilege is grossly abused by the railway employees who sell their free passes to persons not dependent on them; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to prevent and detect such cases and the number of cases of this type detected and the kind of punishment given to the culprits during the year ending 31st March, 1967?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

BRITISH INDIA CORPORATION

5419. **SHRI BABURAO PATEL:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 20 per cent shareholdings of Bajorias are mortgaged with several banks from whom they obtain proxies to retain control over the management of the British India Corporation in spite of these banks being under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the present management is trying to sell five sugar mills of the Corporation to the Benamis of Bajorias; and