

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY): (a) to (c). It is generally believed that multiplicity of trade unions and inter-union or intra-union rivalries are among the main causes for industrial unrest. Under the existing labour legislation it is not possible to adopt the policy of having only one union in a unit except perhaps by a mutually agreed arrangement by which a truly representative union of workers could be recognised as the sole bargaining agent empowered to negotiate collective and general issues with the Management. A proposal to this effect has been mooted and some exploratory and preliminary discussions have been held recently with representatives of some of the concerned trade unions.

Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd

- *14. SHRI SHRI GOPAL SABOO:
SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE;
SHRI K. RAMANI;
SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN;
SHRI BENI SHANKER
SHARMA:

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

(a) whether the State-owned Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. hit by economic recession, has deferred all its expansion programmes during the current plan period;

(b) if so, the steps taken to fight recession; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) According to the original programme for the Fourth Plan, Hindustan Machine Tools Limited were to expand their existing units at Pinjore, Kalamassery and Hyderabad and also to set up two new units. Due to fall in demand consequent upon economic recession, the Company have deferred all these schemes.

(b) The Company are diversifying production by taking up manufacture of more sophisticated machine tools. They all propose to take up manufacture of various types of presses and printing machinery with foreign collaboration. They are also making efforts to expand their exports.

(c) It is too early to assess the effects of these measures.

Utilisation of Capacity in H.E.C. Ranchi

*15. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 253 on the 24th November, 1967 and state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to make a more effective use of the capacity in the three units of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi;

(b) the alternative lines of production which have been developed or are being developed; and

(c) the attempts made to develop export market for the products of the Heavy Engineering Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) (i) The performance of the plants are kept under constant review and efforts are being made to load the plants with orders and also to diversify the production to the extent feasible. (ii) A central Commercial Division has been organised which is in continuous touch with major customers in the country. (iii) Details of surplus capacity of heavy sophisticated machine tools have been circulated to various public sector undertakings and the Directorate General of Technical Development.

(iv) A proposal is under consideration of Department of Defence Production for setting up of a unit for the manufacture of Marine Diesel Engines in the area of H.E.C. Complex so that the additional load from this unit could be taken in the HEC (v) A team of Soviet experts is arriving shortly to advise on the possibilities of diversification and manufacture of equipment to cater to outside markets.

(b) (i) Manufacture of well Drilling rigs and Continuous Casting machines are now included in the manufacturing programme of Heavy Machine Building Plant. (ii) A proposal for the manufacture of Gas Cylinders and Axle Tubes in the plant is under consideration. (iii) Additional lines of production in the Foundry Forge Plant are being taken up to utilise surplus capacity in future years, such as production of crankshafts, for diesel locomotive works, components for marine diesel engines, spun pipe moulds, fraction gear and some items of defence equipments. Steps have been taken to develop prototype of Roll Furning lathes and deep hole boring machines with a view to diversify production in Heavy Machine Tools Plant.

(c) Efforts of exports are being made through the assistance of our Commercial Counsellors abroad. Officers of the Company had been to Middle East Countries, Australia, Newzealand, South Vietnam, Singapore and Malaysia for export promotion.

Import of Jute from Thailand

*16. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1466 on the 28th July, 1967 regarding import of Jute from Thailand and state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has since investigated into the complaints regarding the import of Jute from Thailand;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) The C.B.I. was investigating one specific case and the investigation has been completed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The final decision on the report is expected within a short time.

Amalgamation of Small Coal Mines

*17. SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL:
SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM:
SHRI P. RAMAMURTI:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for compulsory amalgamation of small coal mines; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHR. P. C. SETHI):

(a) and (b). In order to exploit the available resources in the best possible manner and with a view to having a scientific and rational production pattern, the question whether there should be compulsory amalgamation of small and uneconomic coal mines is under examination of the Government.

Recession in Industries

*18. SHRI ESWARA REDDY:
SHRI LILADHAR KOTOKI:
SHRI SHRI GOPAL SABOO:
SHRI BENI SHANKER
SHARMA:
SHRI R. BARUA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2629 on the 1st December, 1967 and state:

(a) the further steps which have been taken to fight recession in industries;