

(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 (SHRI 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;

(b) whether as a result of these steps, there has been any improvement in the situation; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED):** (a) The steps to combat recession listed in reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2629 on 1st December, 1967 are comprehensive and beyond intensifying these efforts no further steps have been initiated in the matter.

(b) and (c). As a result of the steps taken, it can generally be stated that the production in the industries more affected by recession has started looking up; it is, however, a little too early to state in more precise term the extent of improvement in the situation.

#### **Shortfall in Railway Earnings**

\*19. **SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA:**  
**SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a record shortfall in the earnings of the Railways during the first eight months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the earnings of the Railways?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA):** (a) The earnings of the first 8 months of the current year are about 2.4 per cent less than the budget proportion for that period.

(b) The main reason for the shortfall in earnings in the prevailing recession in economic activity.

(c) Efforts are being made to secure more traffic for the Railways, by improving the quality of service offered, like adequate and timely supply of wagons, speeding up transit and ensuring safe transit. Rate ad-

justments are also made where justified.

#### **Second UNCTAD Conference**

\*20. **SHRI DEIVEEKAN:**  
**SHRI HEM BARUA:**  
**SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI:**  
**SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries which participated in the Second UNCTAD Conference; and

(b) the subjects being discussed in the Conference?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH):** (a) and (b). A list of countries which are participating in the Second UNCTAD and the Agenda adopted for discussion in the Conference are placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-18/68.]

#### **British Steel Corporation Experts**

\*21. **SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE:**  
**SHRI P. RAMAMURTI:**  
**SHRI GANESH GHOSH:**  
**SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI:**  
**SHRI T. D. RAMABADRAN:**  
**SHRI MAYAVAN:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of British Steel Corporation experts visited India in 1968;

(b) if so, the purpose of their visit;

(c) whether they have submitted any report; and

(d) if so, the main findings thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY):** (a) Yes, Sir. A team of experts sponsored by the British Steel Corporation arrived in India on 29th January, 1968.

(b) The Team will appraise the requirements of the Durgapur Steelworks needed for fully effective opo-