

(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-

ration and will indicate the equipment and technical assistance to be provided from Britain.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Trade with U.S.S.R.

\*22. SHRI HEM BARUA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S.S.R. have asked the Government of India to allow her to trade with private firms in the country; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No special facilities have been asked for by USSR. They have the same trading opportunities in India as trading companies of other countries.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Tyre and Tube Industry

\*23. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL:  
SHRI S. C. SAMANTA:  
SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR:  
SHRI J. MOHAMED IMAM:  
SHRI C. MUTHUSAMI:  
SHRI RAM GOPAL SHALWALE:  
DR. SURYA PRAKASH PURI:  
SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the automobile tyre and tube industry has been removed from the banned list for licensing purposes;

(b) if so, the results to be achieved by this liberalisation of licensing and whether export of some percentage of production has been made as a condition;

(c) whether this is going to result in further price increase of tyres and tubes for domestic consumption; and

(d) the methods, if any, adopted to make available automobile tyres and tubes to the genuine consumers at control rates in Delhi and elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The industry has been removed from the banned list with a view to establishing further capacity for the manufacture of automobile tyres and tubes. The establishment of further capacity is presently subject to export of 10 per cent of annual production.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no statutory control on the distribution of automobile tyre and tubes. Government have impressed upon the automobile tyre manufacturers to step up the production of tyres. They have also been advised to ensure the availability of these tyres at reasonable prices. Scooter tyres have recently been declared as an "essential commodity" under the Essential Commodities Act. The Industry has also agreed to distribute 10 of scooter tyres and tubes for replacement market through co-operative Societies, like Super Bazar.

#### Hindustan Steel Ltd.

\*24. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Steel Ltd. is presently facing a managerial crisis and the working of Steel Plants has been considerably affected;

(b) the steps taken by Government to find out suitable Managers; and

(c) the decision taken to create Managerial calibre to look after the work of this public Sector Undertaking in future?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY): (a) to (c). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the appointments to be made to the posts of Chairman, Hindustan Steel Limited and General Manager, Rourkela