

ticipated in the Symposium at the invitation of the Indian Institute of Metals. The Indian Institute of Metals is a private Association of Metallurgist registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1913. The proceedings of the Symposium have not yet been received by Government.

Cooper Allen Co., Kanpur

86. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the British India Corporation is going to close down their unit named the Cooper Allen Co., Kanpur which is the biggest leather factory in India and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government were approached by the management of the company with a proposal to take it over and if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to keep the factory running in view of its importance and to save thousands of workers being thrown out of job?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED)

(a) The Cooper Allen Unit of the British India Corporation Limited suffered considerable losses over a period of years on account of several factors including absence of, or diminution in, orders for supplying defence requirements, old and obsolete machinery etc. The management of the Company has, therefore, been considering the necessity of disposing of or closing down this unit for some time past but it has been advised to defer the matter.

(b) and (c). Various proposals have been made with regard to future running of this concern. The entire matter is under consideration.

Indian Property Seized by Pakistan

87. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 570 on the 8th December, 1967 and state:

(a) whether any progress has since been made to recover the ships and properties seized by Pakistan during the last conflict;

(b) if so, the particulars of the claims realised; and

(c) if not, the manner in which Government propose to deal with the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c). The Government of India is still pursuing their efforts with the Government of Pakistan for the mutual restoration of the properties seized by either country.

Abolition of Export Duty on Jute Goods

88. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during last decade, while Pakistan's share in the export of jute goods has increased from 7 per cent to nearly 30 per cent, India's share during the same period has fallen from 83 per cent to 6 per cent;

(b) whether the industry has requested a phased abolition of export duty on jute goods so as to make them more competitive in the world market; and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) It is true that relatively speaking, Pakistan's share as a percentage of world trade in jute goods has increased over the decade ending 1967. Quantitatively, the total exports of these goods from India

had increased from 847,300 tonnes in 1957-58 to 950,200 tonnes in 1964-65 and was only 734,200 tonnes in 1966-67 when the industry was facing difficulties.

(b) and (c). In line with Government's general policy to keep performance of exports under constant review and in the light of various representations, including from the industry, for duty concession export duties have been reduced with effect from 7-2-68 on hessian soaking and specialities by Rs. 250, Rs. 200 and Rs. 600 per tonne respectively.

Joint Plant Committee

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a committee has been appointed to go into the question of reorganisation of the functions and set up of the Joint Plant Committee;

(b) why the constitution of the committee was found necessary even after a high power committee headed by Shri Khadilkar had submitted a report on this subject;

(c) what new grounds will be covered by the new committee; and

(d) how many of the recommendations of the Khadilkar Committee have been accepted for implementation?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Study Team headed by Shri R. K. Khadilkar, which was appointed to go into the working of the Iron and Steel Controller's Organisation, submitted the first part of their report on the production, price and distribution of indigenous steel in May, 1966. Since then, there have been complaints about the working of the Joint Plant Committee and the effectiveness of its regulation over the producers.

The Standing Committee of the Iron and Steel Advisory Council accordingly set up a Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Iron and Steel to go into the question.

(d) In part I, there were 59 recommendations, of which only one was not accepted and the others have been accepted for implementation, some with minor modifications. Similarly, in part II there were 66 recommendations, of which only 2 were not accepted and the others were accepted for implementation, some with minor modifications.

Chairman of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi

90. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an ex-Minister has been appointed as Chairman of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi; and

(b) if so, the reasons for appointing a non-technical person in this undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) The appointment of Chairman has not yet been finalised;

(b) Does not arise.

Bokaro Steel Project

97. SHRI ONKAR SINGH;
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 855 on the 22nd December, 1967 and state:

(a) the details of the order given to different parties for construction materials and equipment required by the Bokaro Steel Project; and