

(e) whether the Government Controller of the Mills had proposed to the Workers' Unions, for the revision of the terms and conditions of service that existed before Government take-over, as a condition prior to restarting of the mills;

(b) if so, the details of Government's proposals; and

(d) whether any settlement was arrived at with the Unions and if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi): (a) and (b). About 600 workers constituting about 50 per cent of the ex-workers of the mill have already been recalled, while another 150 workers are expected to be recalled shortly. This will leave about 480 workers out of which only 143 would be permanent workers. The reason for not employing all the workers is that the mill has restarted with 18,000 spindles and 96 looms only out of a total of 25,000 spindles and 386 looms.

(c) to (e) The terms and conditions of service of workers have not been altered. However, the Authorised Controller discussed with the unions certain proposals relating to revised workload for the economic running of the mill. These proposals were, however, not made a pre-condition to the restarting of the mills.

Material Checkers in Railway Electrification Project

305. Shri Satya Narain Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Railway Minister gave an assurance to the Material Checkers in the Railway Electrification Project that they would be given alternative jobs like other Class III employees;

(b) if so, whether Government have implemented the assurance so far; and

(c) if not, when these employees are likely to be absorbed in regular Railway services?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Substitute Workers of Mughal Sarai Diesel Loco Shed

306 Shri Satya Narain Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of substitute workers of Mughal Sarai Diesel Loco Shed retrenched during the last two months;

(b) whether it is a fact that the retrenched workers had completed more than six months and new hands were appointed for the same jobs; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop these measures?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). 74 men were engaged purely as substitute workers pending regular recruitment, at which these 74 men along with other applicants were considered 47 failed in the recruitment test and are proposed to be replaced by the men who have been successful at the recruitment test. However, only 4 men have actually been discharged on account of being found unfit at the medical examination held before regular appointment.

(c) Substitute workers have necessarily to go through a proper test for regular appointment and if they fail either at the test or at the initial medical examination, they have to be discharged.

Yarn for Handloom Weavers

307. Shri Ramachandra Ujain:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Bhagapathi Pradhan:
Shri Manoj Singh:

Will the Minister of Commerce be

pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate amount of yarn is not made available at present to the handloom weavers in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shaif Qureshi):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Production of Steel

308. Shri Khagapathi Pradhani:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Heerji Bhal:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of steel in all the Steel Plants increased in 1966;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is in accordance with the production targets?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) to (c). A statement containing the production figures for 1965 and 1966 for all the steel plants is given below:—

Steel Plants	1965	1966
	(ingot tonnes)	
Tata	1,969,110	2,010,943
IISCO	948,773	924,466
Rourkela	1,077,582	976,391
Bhilai	1,267,200	1,765,180
Durgapur	1,017,083	780,364
Mysore Iron	64,367	72,268

Production in many Plant Units were not in accordance with targets due to certain operational features.

Export of Tea

309. Shri Khagapathi Pradhani:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Heerji Bhal:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated export potential of tea this year; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the export of tea?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shaif Qureshi):

(a) Assuming that normal conditions will prevail during 1967, it is estimated that exports of tea might reach a level of about 210 million kgs. this year

(b) Indian tea has been facing keen competition in foreign markets with teas from other producing countries as well as competition from other beverages. The following are among the various steps taken to increase the export of tea:—

- 1 For achieving higher levels of production, loans on low rates of interest are advanced to the planters to enable them to undertake replantations and extensions of their gardens and for irrigation purposes
- 2 Latest machinery for tea factories is made available by the Tea Board on Hire-Purchase basis
- 3 A developmental rebate of 50 per cent in income-tax for expenditure incurred on extensions and 40 per cent of expenditure incurred on replantations is allowed.
- 4 The export duty on tea was adjusted downward in November last for increasing its competitive position, particularly of the medium and common varieties, in the world markets.