

of all the narrow gauge sections in each Railway Zone for 1965-66 are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-590/67].

Appointment of Class IV Staff at Khurda, Bhubaneswar and Nirakarpur Stations

1957. Shri Chintamanj Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of men appointed as class IV staff at Khurda, Bhubaneswar and Nirakarpur stations in 1966-67;

(b) how many of them are local men; and

(c) how many of them have been taken from amongst the work-charged coolies?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha):

(a) Khurda Road	27
Bhubaneswar	1
Nirakarpur	Nil.
(b) Khurda Road	11
Bhubaneswar	Nil.
(c) Khurda Road	12
Bhubaneswar	1

Selling Price of TISCO Steel

1959. Shri Sheopujan Shastri:
Shri Madhu Limaye:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by a TISCO executive in the *Economic Times*, dated the 13th May, 1967 to the effect that the selling price of TISCO steel minus the excise duty is below the home price in "any other country";

(b) whether this statement is factually true;

(c) whether the home price referred to in part (a) above includes taxes equivalent to our excise duty; and

(d) if so, the details of the break-up of various elements in the selling price of TISCO and steel prices in countries like West Germany and Japan?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The statement is broadly correct. In fact, the Mahtab Committee have stated in their report that the ex-works prices of steel in India, even prior to devaluation, do not compare too unfavourable with similar internal prices (home prices) abroad.

A statement comparing the Indian prices of some typical products with home prices abroad (after devaluation) is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-591/67]. Complete information regarding the amount on account of taxes and duties, if any, included in the prices abroad is not readily available.

'Sick' Textile Mills of Coimbatore

1960. Shri S. C. Jha: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Lokanathan Committee has made a study of the closed and "sick" textile mills of Coimbatore; and

(b) if so, what are its recommendations?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). The Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Lokanathan by the Government of Madras has, it is understood, submitted an interim report towards the end of May, 1967.