

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to attach Dining Cars to the 15 Up and 16 Dn. Express trains running between Lucknow Junction and Siliguri on the North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, when it will materialise and the distance it will cover; and

(c) whether these will be run on a departmental basis or through any other agency?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise

#### House Rent Allowance to Women Employees

4136. Shri Eswara Reddy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from women employees working as sweepers (safawali) at Char Bag, Lucknow (U.P.);

(b) if so the nature of their demands;

(c) whether Government have decided to stop the payment of house rent allowance to these women employees;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether these women employees have been asked to refund the house rent allowance given to them in the past?

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

(b) Their house rent allowance should not be stopped and house rent allowance so far paid to them may not be recovered from their salaries on account of their sharing accommodation with their husbands who are

also railway employees and have been allotted railway quarters.

(c) Yes.

(d) No house rent allowance is admissible to those who do not incur any expenditure on rent for their accommodation. As a wife who resides with her husband is obviously not called upon to incur any expenditure on house rent, she has no claim to house rent allowance.

(e) Yes.

#### Survey of Minerals in Bastar

4138. Shri J. Sundar Lal: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for the survey and exploitation of different minerals and metals in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

#### Railway Line from Raipur to Jagdalpur

4139. Shri J. Sundar Lal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a Railway line from Raipur to Jagdalpur in Bastar District in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). Feasibility-cum-cost studies for a new broad gauge railway line between Dantewara and Dhalli Rajhara were carried out recently. The length of

the line will be 136.5 miles and its estimated cost is Rs. 19.44 crores. The investigations reveal that the line will be unremunerative, and the chances of inclusion of this line in the Railways Fourth Plan are therefore, very slender.

#### Price of Steel

4140. Shri Shiva Chandra Jha: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) the price of steel per ton in India before and after the devaluation of the rupee vis-a-vis the world steel price;

(b) the price of steel per ton after the decontrol of steel vis-a-vis the world steel price; and

(c) by how much the steel price has gone up after devaluation of the rupee and decontrol of steel in India vis-a-vis the world steel price?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri F. C. Sethi): (a) to (c). Steel prices in India had remained unchanged since April, 1964 except for increases in equalised freight and excise duty. There has been no change in internal prices after devaluation till 2-5-67. World prices have also not undergone any change due to devaluation or decontrol of price and distribution of steel in India except that the rate of exchange has undergone a change as a result of devaluation. A statement showing the domestic prices of some items of steel in Japan and U.K. as compared with the Indian prices before and after 2-5-67 is given below for certain categories.

(Price in Rs per tonne)

| Item                 | Japan  |         | U.K. excluding delivery charges assumed to be £ a |        | J.P.C. price before 2-5-67 | J.P.C. price excluding excise duty & freight (Rs. 75) before 2-5-67 | J. .C. price after 2-5-67 | J.P.C. price after 2-5-67 excluding excise duty and freight (Rs. 75) |
|----------------------|--------|---------|---|--------|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|
|                      | 4-6-66 | 19-3-67 | 4-2-66  | 2-5-67 |                            |   |                           |  |
| Bars 14 mm & below   | 507    | 729     | 548   | 874    | 738                        | 538   | 790                       | 590  |
| Plates               | 598    | 813     | 541   | 889    | 850                        | 640   | 900                       | 690  |
| Structurals (Joists) | 530    | 1125    | 512   | 846    | 768                        | 568   | 800                       | 600  |

(Excise duty on Bars & Structural is Rs. 125 and on Plates it is Rs. 135).

#### Dining Cars

4141. Shri Shiva Chandra Jha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dining cars and the lines on which they are running on all the Railways; and

(b) the estimated number to be added during the Fourth Plan period?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Foonacha): (a) The total number of dining cars as on 1-1-1967 is 172 on the B.G. and 43 on the M.G. A statement showing the trains/sections on which the dining car service is provided is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-889/67].

(b) The estimated number to be added during the Fourth Plan period is 26 B.G. and 8 M.G.