

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN WEST BENGAL

1667. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industries in West Bengal have made any progress during the last eight months;

(b) the position in West Bengal in regard to the growth of new industry, expansion of existing industries and fresh investment in old industries during the same period; and

(c) whether Government will place necessary data on the Table of the House?

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

to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

MOTOR CAR QUALITY INQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

1668. SHRI D. C. SHARMA:
DR. P. MANDAL :
SHRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN:

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

(a) whether the Motor Car Quality Inquiry Committee has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Committee had to gather a lot of data from the manufacturers, dealers, members of the public, Government Departments, etc. They had also to visit the factories of the car manufacturers and of some of the important ancillary manufacturers. The Committee also undertook some special studies. For these reasons, the Committee had sought, and have been given, extension of time up to 30th November, 1967 for submitting their report.

PRICE OF COAL SUPPLIED TO RAILWAYS AND STEEL PLANTS

1669. SHRI D. C. SHARMA:
SHRI VISHWANATHA MENON:
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal industry has arbitrarily enhanced the prices of coal supplied to Railways and public sector Steel Plants;

(b) whether the public sector steel plants and the Railways are not prepared to pay higher prices;

(c) if so, the efforts made to negotiate a reasonable price; and

(d) the steps taken to avoid the disruption of essential services like the working of the public sector steel plants and the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). Consequent on price decontrol and Govt.'s acceptance of the recommendations of the Coal Wage Board, coal industry notified increases in prices of various grades of coal averaging Rs. 7.08 per tonne with effect from 1-9-67. There was no agreement between the Railways and the Steel Plants and the coal industry about the increase in prices. As a result of prolonged negotiations, it was agreed that the price of coal would be raised by Rs. 5/- per tonne for Bengal /Bihar coal; Rs. 4/- per tonne for Madhya Pradesh coal; and Rs. 5.23 per tonne for Andhra Pradesh coal with effect from 1-9-1967.

(d) Coal producing Public sector Undertakings would no doubt keep a check on any arbitrary increase in coal price. Besides this, the Railways and Steel Plants, big consumers as they are, would have considerable stabilising influence on the level of prices.

COST AND PRICE STRUCTURE OF NEW INDUSTRIES

1670. SHRI D. C. SHARMA:
SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI S. M. JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on the working of the Tariff Commission has advocated