

CLOSURE OF INDUSTRIES IN WEST BENGAL1756. **SHRI D. N. PATODIA :****SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that since March, 1967 on account of industrial and social unrest in West Bengal, large number of industrial and commercial Units have closed down either partially or wholly resulting into curtailment of production and lay-off and retrenchment of workers;

(b) if so, the number of industrial units so affected and the number of workers retrenched and laid off;

(c) whether it is also a fact that future expansion of industrial units has stopped in West Bengal and the entrepreneurs are unwilling to invest any further capital under the conditions of insecurity prevailing there; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) to (d). Government have no precise data on the subject nor has there been any systematic survey of the industrial and social unrest in West Bengal and its impact on the industrial prospects. We are, no doubt, aware of the industrial unrest and its adverse effect on the industrial production. The Government have been in constant touch with the State Government on measures to promote industrial peace.

ATTACK ON TRAIN IN WEST BENGAL1757. **SHRI D. N. PATODIA :****SHRI N. K. SOMANI :****SHRI J. K. MONDAL :**

Will the Minister of **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of occasions when the Railway trains were attacked by unruly mob in West Bengal during the last four months;

(b) the causes which led to the disturbances;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Railway Protection Force failed to give any adequate protection to Railway property during all these incidents; and

(d) the loss suffered by the Railways as a result of these disturbances?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) No such incidents have been reported during the period.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

MALPRACTICES BY BIRLA INDUSTRIAL UNITS

1758. **SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :** Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any investigation into the allegation of corruption and malpractices indulged in by the industrial units under the control of Birlas;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

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

(a) to (c). Government have actively proceeded with the investigations into the various allegations against the Birla Group of companies. The investigations cover a wide field and some of the detailed replies have been received only very recently. The replies are being studied expeditiously with a view to an early formulation of the course of action to be taken.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

1759. **SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :** Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial production has registered a decline in the recent months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to arrest the decline in production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) and (b). The official index of industrial production (Base 1956—100) stood at 199.3 during July 1967 as against 199.8 in January 1967 and 192.6 during the year 1966. However, the engineering industries producing capital goods have had the impact of recession during the last few months. This