

rendering them incapable to implementing the Wage Board Recommendations and meeting their statutory obligations; and

(b) the objective of decontrol of coal and while implementing the policy of decontrol whether factors such as increased output per-manship of mechanisation were taken into consideration as also the steep rise in the wage bill and if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) After decontrol, the coal industry negotiated prices with the Railways and Steel Plants and both the consumers are paying negotiated prices to the industry. These prices are higher than those obtaining prior to decontrol. In the circumstances, the question of industry being incapable of implementing Wage Board's recommendations, therefore, does not seem to arise.

(b) The object of decontrol was to let the market forces of supply and demand determine the price. The decision to decontrol coal was taken after a careful consideration of all the relevant aspects of the matter.

Sale of Adulterated Honey by Khadi Gramodyog Bhavans

6012. **SHRI J. SUNDER LAL:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2821 on the 1st December, 1967 and state:

(a) whether any departmental enquiry has since been held in the matter;

(b) whether Government propose to prepare a list of approved agencies for making purchases so that standards of purity and reasonableness of prices could be ensured and undue advantage to any middlemen could be prevented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Not so far, but the matter is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The Government does not propose to prepare list of the approved Agencies for making purchases. However, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has instructed various Khadi Gramadyog Bhavans under its control to purchase and sell only Ag-marked honey, as had been stated in answer to Unstarred Question No. 2821 on 1-12-67. With regard to purchase of other village industries, the Commission has laid down that the purchases be made only from artisans directly or from cooperative societies or registered institutions recognised by the State Boards or the Commission. Since the purchase are made from these bodies, the standards of purity and reasonableness of price is taken into consideration.

No purchases from middlemen are allowed.

Overbridge at Level Crossing at Kumbakonam-Sirkali Road

6013. **SHRI SUBRAVELU:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken for the construction of an over-bridge in lieu of the existing level crossing at M 20/7 of Kumbakonam-Sirkali road near Mayavaram Junction; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (b). Under the extant rules, proposals for construction of road over-bridges in replacement of busy level crossings are required to be sponsored by the State Government indicating the relevant priority and the year in which they would be able to provide funds towards Road Authority's share of the cost of the work, as required under the extant rules.

There is no firm proposal so far from the Government of Madras for the construction of a road over bridge in replacement of the existing level crossing at Km. 285|1 near Mayuram Junction.

Hindustan Steel Limited

6014. SHRI M. N. REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the advertisement issued by the Hindustan Steel Ltd. on the 25th June, 1967 in leading newspapers of India captioned "what is the country losing on Hindustan Steel" and whether this advertisement represented the true state of affairs and facts concerning the Hindustan Steel Ltd.;

(b) the reasons for issuing such unusual and distorted advertisement; and

(c) the action whether Government propose to take to prevent the repetition of such lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY): (a) to (c). The attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to the answer given on 1st December, 1967 to a similar Unstarred Question No. 2726.

UNCATED—II

6015. SHRI HIMATSINGKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India proposed at the UNCTAD—II the establishment of a Research Fund, to find new uses for natural primary products of the developing countries;

(b) whether the move encountered total resistance from the western developed countries; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by the Indian delegation to bring round these countries to the Indian point of view and what was the final consensus on this issue?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The developed market economy countries made the counter proposal that the Permanent Group on Synthetics and Substitutes of UNCTAD should study ways and means of promoting scientific research and the improvement of market conditions etc. in respect of natural products which are threatened by competition from synthetics and substitutes.

(c) Efforts are made by the Indian delegation to secure a consensus on the proposal but the developed market economy countries did not change their position and as such, no agreement could be reached.

Darbhanga Railway Lines

6016. SHRI BHOGENDR JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are examining the necessity of extending the broad gauge Railway line from Samastipur to Darbhanga to facilitate defence convenience; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

UNCATED

6017. SHRI NANJA GOWDER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Hotel in New Delhi has denied many amenities to UNCTAD delegates; and