

**SHOE INDUSTRY IN AGRA**

2953. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the shoe industry is facing a great crisis at Agra;

(b) whether it is also a fact that nearly 200 factories have been closed;

(c) if so, its effect on the labourers; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto ?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) :** (a) The general recession has affected the shoe industry to certain extent.

(b) The State Government has reported that on-the-spot enquiry did not confirm closure of two hundred units.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

**EMPLOYEES OF SUPERIOR CADRE ON RAILWAYS**

2954. SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees of superior cadre who are paid less than those in the inferior cadre to which they had been originally recruited in each of the Railway Zones because of the implementation of pay scheme of 1956; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the adverse effects after the judgment of Andhra Pradesh High Court on the 7th February, 1968 and other High Court Judgments ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) :** (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha in due course.

**CONCESSIONAL RAILWAY TRAVEL FACILITIES**

2955. SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for restoring concessional railway travel facilities for bona fied professional entertaining companies and parties during December, 1963;

(b) whether such concessions are still in vogue;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether these concessions are proposed to be restored in view of adverse effect on the cultural activities in the country ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) :** (a) The concessional railway travel facilities for bona fide professional entertaining companies and parties were withdrawn from 1st January, 1963, partly to reduce pressure on rail transport. The position having eased, the facilities were restored, subject to certain conditions, later in the year.

(b) These concessions were withdrawn from 1st February, 1968.

(c) In the present difficult financial situation, the Railways cannot afford to maintain all the concessions they have been granting in the past. Besides, there appears no justification for professional entertaining companies and parties being given special consideration in this matter.

(d) Considering the special transport requirements of circus companies, a special rate for their baggage and equipment, including animals, booked in vehicle loads was quoted again from 7th February, 1968.

It is not proposed to restore the other concessions for professional entertaining companies and parties. The structure of cultural activities in the country is not so shallow as to break down by the necessity of payment of normal transport charges.

**मेसूर में उद्योगों का बंद होना**

2956. श्री निहाल सिंह : क्या औद्योगिक विकास तथा मसबाद-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :