

up for construction in the Samastipur district or not, in the near future.

Burning of a Bogie of Sealdah-Pathankot Express

9919. SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a third class bogie of Sealdah-Pathankot Express caught fire and a number of casualties occurred ;

(b) if so, the reasons for stopping the train after 20 minutes of the fire and why the alarm chains were not provided for in the compartments ; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to avoid recurrence of such incidents and ensuring that alarm chains are provided in every train ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) On 13-4-1968, a third class coach of 17 Up Sealdah-Pathankot Express caught fire before the train reached Hazaribagh. 7 persons were killed as a result of their jumping out of the carriage which had caught fire. 20 persons were injured, including nine cases of grievous injuries.

(b) The fire was noticed by the Assistant Driver of the train when he looked back after 5 Kms. beyond Chichaki station where the fire had been noticed by the station staff, i.e. after 3 to 4 minutes from the time the fire was noticed at Chichaki. He informed the Driver who immediately applied the emergency brakes and brought the train to a stop.

The alarm chains were provided on the train but had been blanked off in this and some other compartments in view of the heavy incidence of alarm chain pulling.

(c) The cause of the accident is being inquired into by the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety. Necessary action will be taken on receipt of his report.

All passenger coaches are provided with alarm chains and instructions have also been issued to the Railways to restore the alarm chains in all non-suburban trains wherever they were blanked off.

Small Scale Industries

9920. SHRI S. KUNDU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small scale industries registered under the Factory Act throughout India and how many of such industries are at present working ;

(b) how many of such industries are located in different States and Union territories from 1958 onwards ;

(c) the total capital invested on such industries, State-wise ; and

(d) the measures taken to promote exports from such small scale industries and the main items of export ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

H E. C., Ranchi

9921. SHRI S. KUNDU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi obtained a contract to supply fabricated material to a Steel Mill in Syria or some of the Middle East countries sometime back ;

(b) if so, the amount of the tender money and whether the Government concerned in the Middle East have accepted it being the lowest ;

(c) if so, whether the tender was worked out ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) to (d). The information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.