

the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works during 1967-68 to 1970-71 to meet the demands of Indian Railways and other parties, out of which only one locomotive has been turned out.

**Zinc Smelter at Debari (Rajasthan)**

1249. SHRI HIMATSINGKA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector zinc smelter at Debari, Udaipur district has been commissioned;

(b) if so, when it was commissioned and the production stage reached by it;

(c) the products and by-products being produced at the zinc smelter, the production capacity in respect of each item and the extent of actual production reached in respect of each of these items; and

(d) when this plant will start its full production capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Trial runs of the different sections commenced from November, 1967 but the plant as a whole (except two sections namely, Sice Furnace and Cadmium plant) was commissioned from the 1st January, 1968.

(c) The products and by-products being produced at the zinc smelter and their targetted capacity are as under:—

<i>Products and by-products</i>	<i>Targetted capacity</i>
(i) Zinc	18,000 tonnes per annum
(ii) Sulphuric acid	29,000 " " "
(iii) Single Super-phosphate by utilising sulphuric acid produced and with the help of	

imported rock phosphate.	75,000	"	"	"
(iv) Cadmium	80	"	"	"

During January, 1968, the production was as under:—

Zinc Cathode sheets produced	1,533.445 tonnes
Sulphuric acid produced	2,804.67 tonnes
Superphosphate produced	5,301.59 tonnes

There was no production of cadmium as this plant has not yet been completed.

(d) Except for Cadmium and conversion of the zinc cathodes now being produced into zinc ingots, the plant has already begun production at its rated capacity, although according to the project report the plant was to achieve production capacity at 60 per cent, 80 per cent and 100 per cent in the first, second and third year respectively of the start-up of the plant.

The work on the Sice Furnace for conversion of the zinc cathodes into zinc ingots is likely to start shortly and will be completed in two months time. As regards the Cadmium plant, the work has already started and this plant is expected to be partially commissioned during the current month and the full rated capacity is likely to be attained in March, 1968.

**Discontinuance of Railway Lines in Madras State**

1250. SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI:  
SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:  
SHRI K. RAMANI:  
SHRI NAMBIAR:  
SHRI G. VISWANATHAN:  
SHRI S. K. SAMBANDAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to discontinue some Railway lines in Madras State;

(b) if so, the names of Railway lines and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the Madras Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS** (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) (a) and (b). No decision to close any line in Madras State has yet been formulated. An examination is, however, under way to see whether unremunerative branch lines, could be closed down without detriment to public interest. A list of such lines in Madras State is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-139/68.]

(c) No.

(d) In view of the answer to part (c), the question does not arise.

**Catering Staff in Dining Car Restaurants**

1251. SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI;  
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN;  
SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU;  
SHRI NAMBIAR;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4604 on the 15th December, 1967 and state:

(a) whether the information regarding the number of catering staff employed on dining car restaurants, their pay and allowances and whether they are entitled for all the benefits admissible to railway employees, has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons for the delay?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS** (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) to (c). The information has been collected and is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-154/68 ]

**Sale of Imported Oils by State Trading**

1252. SHRI BHAGABAN DAS;  
SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE;  
SHRI SATYA NARAIN;

SINGH;

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small-scale soap manufacturers of Punjab have lost foreign market due to 100 per cent profit charged by the State Trading Corporation on the imported raw materials like mutton tallow, coconut and palm oils;

(b) whether the Punjab Small-Scale Soap Manufacturers Federation has represented to Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in the matter?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE** (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No, Sir. The State Trading Corporation does not charge hundred per cent profit on import of raw materials like copra, palm oil and tallow. The Punjab Small Scale Soap manufacturers are not affected by the margin of profits charged by the Corporation on these raw materials. The Corporation, on the other hand, assists the manufacturer-exporters of soap by making available to them adequate quantities of raw materials like palm oil, tallow, copra/coconut oil at reasonable prices which are fixed by a Committee approved by Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Tea Industry**

1253. SHRI D. C. SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee set up to go into the problems of tea industry and recommend measures for increasing its production has submitted its report;