

(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;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement its recommendation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No, Sir.

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

Delegations from U.S.S.R.

1254. SHRI DEIVEEKAN;
SHRI CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether four expert groups from U.S.S.R. visited India recently to study techniques of production of jute goods, leather goods, ready-made garments and knitwear;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) whether this matter was also discussed with the Soviet Premier during his recent visit to India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). The advance party of the four expert groups from U.S.S.R. are currently in India; but they will be reinforced by other experts as and when the need arises.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Soviet Premier Kosygin had promised to send these expert groups to India.

Heavy Electricals Complex in Bhopal

1255. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the promotion policy of the Heavy Electricals Complex in Bhopal is a matter of widespread discontent among the employees and some instances were brought to his notice on his recent

visit to Bhopal by the employees' representatives; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to fulfil the demands of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) Revision of promotion policy of Heavy Electricals Bhopal has been subject of demands by the recognised union of the factory. No instances were, however, brought to Minister's notice during his last visit to Bhopal.

(b) Management have framed their promotion policy on the basis of model rules circulated by Government of India. Except in categories like lower division clerks and peons, where promotion is made purely on the basis of seniority, promotion in other cadres is made on the basis of seniority-cum-merit by means of a positive selection. This is considered to be satisfactory.

Industrial Price Commission

1256. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI K. HALDAR:
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH
SHASTRI:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the suggestion made by the Chartered Accountants to the effect that an Industrial Price Commission should be set up on the lines of Agricultural Price Commission; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. In a study on Price Fixation in Indian Industries made by the Indian Merchants' Chamber Economic Research and Training Foundation,