

Act, was not adequately insured and there was a fire in March, 1966 in that mills;

(b) if so, the quantum of loss sustained by the Company;

(c) the steps taken to compensate the mills for its losses; and

(d) the action Government have taken to restart the mills and to modernise the machinery ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The Katihar Jute Mills was adequately insured. Fire was accidental and not due to negligence.

(b) and (c). The quantum of loss as assessed by the Surveyors was of the order of Rs. 6.25 lakhs in respect of mill machinery, electric installations, buildings, stocks in process and finished goods, for which claims have been preferred against the insurers. So far claims relating to the finished goods have been met and the rest of the claims are under consideration.

(d) The mill can be reopened only after the machinery has been installed. The Bihar State Government is examining the matter.

HEAVY ENGINEERING CORPORATION,
RANCHI

5259. SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) when the I.B.M. Punch Card unit was set up in the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi;

(b) the annual rent paid and the expenditure on staff and stationery incurred in respect of this unit;

(c) the jobs which are being executed in the unit and whether it is a fact that it is grossly under utilised; and

(d) the steps which are being taken to utilise the machines fully or to dispense with it to save unproductive expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY

AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) The I.B.M. Punch Card Unit was installed in May, 1.

(b) The annual rent payable at present is Rs. 2.07 lakhs.

The annual expenditure on staff and stationery incurred so far in respect of this unit is approximately Rs. 1.45 lakhs.

(c) The jobs being done on the unit are pay rolls of about 15,000 employes, Stores Accounting of Foundry Forge Project and Heavy Machine Building Project, Wage incentive of Foundry Forge Project, Machine/Labour utilisation of Heavy Machine Building Project, Preparation of monthly advance accounts and certain Miscellaneous items of work. It is not a fact that the unit is grossly under utilised.

(d) There are two main Accounting Machines and these are utilised 72 per cent per month at the present level of efficiency. Other subsidiary machines are to feed the main accounting machines to have the end product. The company are planning to take up the financial accounting work, accounting work of the provident fund, certain production planning work like material planning, machine utilisation and manpower utilisation of Foundry Forge Project shortly on the punch Card Unit.

FASTER TRAINS ON DELHI-CALCUTTA
ROUTE

5260. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken so far to introduce faster trains on the Delhi-Calcutta route; and

(b) whether travelling by this train will cost more than that by other trains and if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) The technical and economic details of a proposal to introduce a biweekly fast express train between New Delhi and Howrah are under study.

(b) Yes, the charges are likely to be more than by other trains, but the precise charges to be levied have not yet been settled.