

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

M/s. Indian Oxygen Ltd., Calcutta

2278. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri Mohammad Elias:

Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Indian Oxygen Ltd., with its Head Office in Calcutta, has a virtual monopoly in India, and if so, to what extent;

(b) the amount of foreign capital invested in it and the percentage of its shares held by M/s. British Oxygen Ltd. of the U.K.;

(c) whether it has had since 1957 any expansion schemes and what they are; and

(d) if so, whether such schemes were approved by the Central Government?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh):

(a) M/s. Indian Oxygen Ltd. are virtually the only manufacturers of Argon, Nitrous Oxide and gas cutting and welding equipment in the country. In the field of Oxygen, Dissolved Acetylene and Nitrogen there has been some decrease in the share of this firm in the country's total production but still they account for a substantial portion of country's total production for these gases. So far as welding electrodes and Hydrogen are concerned, units other than M/s Indian Oxygen, account for a major portion of country's production.

(b) The percentage of shareholding of M/s British Oxygen Co. Ltd., U.K. in the capital of M/s Indian Oxygen Ltd., is approximately 67.7 per cent. The shareholding of other non-residents is not significant.

(c) and (d). Since 1957 Government have approved firm's proposals

for expansion of their capacities for the manufacture of Oxygen, Dissolved Acetylene etc. at Bombay, Visakhapatnam, Jamshedpur, Burnpur, Madras, Calcutta, Delhi, Kanpur and Ahmedabad. Government have also approved the firm's proposals for expansion of their capacity for the manufacture of Gas Cutting and Welding Equipment and Continuous Special Electrodes at Calcutta and Mild Steel Electrodes at Madras.

Production of Steel Armour for Tanks

2279. Shri Yudhvir Singh:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavaia:
Shri Bado:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of steel armour for tanks has been started in Rourkela; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Manufacture of Transformers and Capacitors

2280. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 203 on the 5th November, 1965 and state:

(a) the names of the members of the Committee appointed by the Central Government to consider and recommend the scheme of the Punjab Government to set up a new unit at Nangal for the manufacture of transformers and capacitors; and

(b) when the Committee will submit its recommendations?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh):

(a) and (b). No Committee has been set up by the Government to

consider the scheme of the State Government of Punjab to set up a new unit at Nangal for the manufacture of transformers and capacitors. The Government of India appointed a Committee consisting of the following members to assess the existing capacity and further capacity required in relation to the prospective demand for heavy electrical equipment:

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Shri B. S. Nag | Chairman |
| 2. Shri M. K. Gopalaingar | Member |
| 3. Shri K. L. Vij | " |
| 4. Shri B. D. Kalckar | " |
| 5. Shri K. B. Mathur | " |
| (Alternate Shri V. Krishnamurthy) | |
| 6. Shri K. C. Lall | Member |
| (Alternate Shri S. Swayambu) | |
| 7. Shri Hari Bhushan | Member |
| 8. Shri K. N. Ramaswamy | Member-Secretary. |

The State Government's proposal would be considered in the light of the recommendations of the above Committee. The report of this Committee has just been received and is being examined.

Tea Board

2281. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) when the term of the present Tea Board will expire;

(b) when new members will be nominated to it; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to take some non-officials in the Board in place of the Officials of the State Government?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). On the 31st March, 1966 when fresh members will be appointed for a period of three years.

(c) No, Sir.

Parcel Office at Delhi Main Station

2282. Shri Gulshan: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officials of the Vigilance Department

of the Railway raided the Parcel Office, Delhi Main Station on the 31st October, 1965;

(b) whether any malpractices and other irregularities were detected; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhas Singh): (a) The Central Investigating Agency of the Railway Board conducted a check in the Parcel Office, Delhi Main Station on 21-10-65.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter has been reported to the Railway Administration for taking further necessary action.

Fourth Blast Furnace at Durgapur

2283. Shri Dinesh Bhattacharya:
Dr. Ramen Sen:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fourth Blast Furnace of Durgapur Steel Works has been installed; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay and its repercussion on the production?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). The Fourth Blast Furnace is under construction and is scheduled for commissioning in January, 1966. Due to a serious accident which occurred in October, 1965 in which the bell and the bell rod were badly damaged, there is likely to be a delay of about a month, provided the damaged parts are repaired locally and for which efforts are being made. If it becomes necessary to import the bell rod, the completion may be delayed by another month. The Furnace will then be ready by end of March, 1966. The repercussion on production can be worked out only when the extent of the actual delay is known.