

is Rs. 107.17 per quintal for bottom grade of Assam variety of jute delivered at Calcutta.

(b) and (c). Information is, however, being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Rourkela Steel Plant

8937. SHRI S. KUNDU : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rourkela Steel Plant of Hindustan Steel Ltd. is still being managed by a Committee of Management ;

(b) if so, the names of the persons who are in the Committee of Management and how long this Committee of Management is supposed to continue ;

(c) whether the Orissa Government have suggested any names for appointment as the General Manager of the Rourkela, Steel Plant ;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to accept the suggestion of the Orissa Government ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) to (e). The new General Manager of the Rourkela Steel Plant under Hindustan Steel Ltd. assumed charge on the 20th March, 1968, when the Committee of Management ceased to function. Although the Government of Orissa suggested the names of a few Officers for the post and several other persons were considered, ultimately the present incumbent was selected on account of his technical qualifications and experience and the requirements of the post.

#### Shortage of Rigs in India

8938. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of rigs for drilling boring sets for irrigation purposes in the country ;

(b) if so, the total number of such rigs in Government and in private hands, separately ; and

(c) whether Government propose a large scale production of such rigs at Hatia and other places to meet the entire growing needs of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). Sufficient capacity has been developed in the country for the manufacture of well drilling rigs of different types to meet the demand. However, there may be certain places where due to the peculiar condition of the terrain, specialized rigs may be required. Such rigs whose demand is small and whose production may not be economical may have to be imported. Total number of rigs in Government and Private hands is not available.

(c) Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Ranchi have already started manufacture of well drilling rigs and they can increase production suitably depending on the demands from time to time. Several parties in the private sector are also in a position to manufacture various types of well drilling equipment.

#### Probationers of Indian Railway Service of Engineers

8939. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Probationers of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers are required to pass during their probation period a Departmental examination in Hindi in Devnagri script in order to be confirmed in their posts ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to amend the relevant rules so as to avoid discrimination to non-Hindi students ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b). There has been a rule in existence for several decades that in the case of probationers of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers and other Class I Services not only of the Railways, but all other Central and All India Services also, that they should pass a language examination before confirmation. From 1951, this language examination has been in Hindi. The standard of this examination is equivalent to the