

by the Joint Plant Committee on 31-7-68.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the prices as on 29-7-68 and on or after midnight of 30/31-7-68 and the increases allowed is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1641/68]. A general revision of prices were last made on the 1st May, 1967 for a period of one year only. Thereafter the cost of production of steel had increased owing to the increase in the price of coal, the rate of railway freight, sale tax, wages and dearness allowance etc.

(d) A statement showing the comparative prices of some of the steel items in India and other countries is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1641/68]. It is the endeavour of Government to ensure that prices are kept at a reasonable level by raising productive efficiency as well as by expansion productive capacity.

#### COMMITTEE ON CLOSED TEXTILE MILLS

2911. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Textile Mills in the country have closed down;

(b) if so, which of the textile mills have stopped production, causes of their closure, the extent to which the production is likely to be affected and the number of workers facing unemployment;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government contemplate appointing Investigation Committees to look into the closure of these mills and suggest remedies; and

(d) whether any Committees have been appointed and, if so the names of the members of these Committees, their terms of reference and the period fixed for completing their investigation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a). 55 Textile Mills were closed in the country at the end of June, 1968.

(b) to (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1642/68].

#### RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

2912. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the various Advisory Committees, Boards or any other such Organisations connected with his Ministry and the names of their members and functions assigned to each of them;

(b) the number of members in each Committee or Board who are publicmen and the number out of them who are Officials;

(c) whether the nomination of members is for one term only and, if not, for how many terms a member can be renominated and what is the duration of term; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred on these Committees during the year 1967-68 ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1643/68].

#### CASES OF MALPRACTICES IN MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS

2913. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases discovered during the period from 1st April to 30th June, 1968 involving corruption, bribery, theft and other criminal offences in his Ministry;

(b) the number of officials (class-wise) and non-officials involved;

(c) the number of cases in which prosecution was launched and how many cases were referred to C.B.I.;

(d) the number of cases of similar nature which were reported in 1967-68, how many of these resulted in conviction and against how many persons De-