

(ii) there is a lot of irregularities in the punch card system of taking attendance and the employees continue to get attendance whether they are on the job or not; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to put the administrative set up in working order in this undertaking ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) It is a fact that in Heavy Electricals (India) Ltd., Bhopal, jobs are distributed to Artisans to be completed in specified time and that attendance is recorded by punch card.

(b) It has been ascertained that the reports are not correct. There is a proper system of recording the time when the worker is without work and this is known as 'waiting time' and it was 7.5 per cent for 1967-68. Cases of violation of the rules governing punch card system are negligible. Clocks on which cards are punched are under careful watch by supervisors.

(c) Does not arise.

HEAVY ELECTRICALS, BHOPAL

3006. **SHRI G. S. MISRA :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of the Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal started free bus service from Bhopal City to H.E.L. Township for those citizens who are interested in seeing the factory; and

(b) if so, the cost of such trips and the reasons for making such an arrangement ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) With effect from July, 1968 the management of Heavy Electricals (India) Ltd., Bhopal have started a scheme for a Bus trip once a month from Bhopal city to the factory and back for the public to visit this project and go round the manufacturing units.

(b) The cost of such trips comes to about Rs. 50 per month only. The purpose of the scheme which is part of the Company's public relations programme is to afford an opportunity to the local public to acquaint themselves with the progress and developments in respect of this national project.

APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL MANAGER OF INDIAN ALUMINIUM CO. AS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF KORBA UNIT OF BHARAT ALUMINIUM CO. LTD.

3007. **SHRI G. S. MISHRA :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to appoint the General Manager of the Indian Aluminium Co. as the Managing Director of Korba Unit of Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken any guarantee of production target from the new General Manager; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

FINANCIAL LOSS TO INDIA AS A RESULT OF CLOSURE OF SUEZ CANAL

3008. **SHRI M. L. SONDHI :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have enquired into the financial loss to the Indian Interests as a result of the closure of the Suez Canal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to minimise the loss ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) to (c). It is not possible to estimate the loss incurred by India as a result of the closure of the Suez Canal. It can, however, be stated that India is in-

cutting an estimated additional expense of about 3 million dollars per month on account of higher freight charges that have to be paid for our imports from countries to the West of the Suez Canal. In addition, our exports to these countries are also handicapped, though it is not easy to quantify the resulting loss of trade.

RATE OF ROYALTY ON COAL

3010. SHRI R. BARUA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Da Costa Committee has recently made their recommendations to Government regarding the rate of royalty payable on coal to different States;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations of that Committee; and

(c) whether the Coal Advisory Council had taken certain decision in the matter and, if so, the details thereof and whether they are acceptable to all States ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the Coal Advisory Council Meeting held recently, it has been accepted in principle that royalty on coal may be levied on tonnage basis subject to certain details to be worked out. The State Governments also agreed to this proposal.

LABOUR CRISIS IN PUBLIC SECTOR STEEL PLANTS

3011. SHRI R. BARUA .
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that of late labour crisis is mounting in the public sector Steel Plants;

(b) if so, the total number of strikes that took place in each of the Steel Plants in the country during the current

year so far and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any concrete steps have been taken or contemplated to check the deteriorating labour situation in the Steel Plants ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) It is not a fact that of late labour crisis is mounting in the public sector steel plants except in the case of Durgapur Steel Plant where the situation is not happy.

(b) There were in all four strikes lasting 24 hours or less in Durgapur Steel Plant during the period January-July, 1968. These were over issues relating to manning and upgradation of certain posts and re-instatement of some dismissed workers.

(c) The troubles in Durgapur Steel Plant seem to be mainly due to inter-union rivalry. The issue of recognition of the rival union is under reference to the State Government. For its part, the Management of the Plant is taking suitable action to streamline personnel policies and to improve human relations.

INSTALLATION OF COMPUTERS IN INDUSTRIAL UNITS

3012. SHRI R. BARUA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision about the installation of computers in the industrial units in the public and private sectors;

(b) if so, the number and the names of the industrial units where computers are likely to be introduced during the current year;

(c) whether any assessment has been made about the impact of these computers on the displacement of labour in these units; and

(d) whether it is a fact that labour unions have represented against it and, if so, what are their main objections ?