

(a) whether his Ministry have received any memorandum from the North Eastern Railway Subordinate Accounts Service Staff Association as per the resolution passed at their Annual Conference held on the 25th February, 1968; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) No specific action was considered necessary as there is a Permanent Negotiating Machinery under which the recognised Railway Unions could discuss matters concerning all staff including the Accounts Staff with the local Railway Administration.

Matters requiring decision at a higher level are discussed by the two All India Railway Federations which enjoy negotiating facilities with the Railway Board and to which the local recognised Unions are affiliated.

#### RAILWAY CONCESSION TO STUDENTS

3966. SHRI SHEOPUJAN SHASTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the railway-fare concession given to students during the vacations is granted only for and from the native place of the students and not for and from any of the hill stations etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons for not granting such fare concessions for, and from, hill stations and other resorts enabling them to enjoy their vacations at such places; and

(c) how many times in a year such concession is granted to a student ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) This is not a fact. The concession is available for journeys between the school or college or training centre and the student's home. The term "home" covers not only the native place of the student but also the place where the parents or the guardian of the student normally reside or the place where either of the

parents or the guardian is residing at the time.

Students travelling in parties of not less than ten are also allowed a concession for journeys undertaken for educational purposes and such tours may include hill stations.

(b) In view of the answer to part (a), this question does not arise.

It may be mentioned that apart from the concessions specifically provided for students and referred to in the answer to part (a), students may avail of the hill concession return tickets on the same terms and conditions as apply to the public at large.

(c) The number of times that a student may avail of the rail concession is not laid down.

#### TEA FIELD ADVISORY OFFICER

3967. SHRI HEM RAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a post of Tea Field Advisory Officer for Northern region was created in the year 1961 with its headquarters at Dharamsala and was proving very useful;

(b) whether that post has since been abolished recently; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the alternative arrangements made for giving advice to the Tea growers of this region ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI  
MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes.  
Sir.

(b) and (c). The last incumbent of the post was recently transferred; another trained officer of the Tea Board has been posted at Dharamsala to advise the tea growers of the Himachal Pradesh and U.P. region.

#### MANUFACTURE OF NEW MEGHDOOT MODEL OF AMBASSADOR CARS

3968. SHRI M. B. RANA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOP-

MENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) when M/s. Hindustan Motors Limited, Calcutta are likely to take up the manufacture of the new Meghdoot model of Ambassador cars; and

(b) the reasons why Government have been allowing this Birla firm to continue the manufacture of the same type of Model since 1958 ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) :

(a) No proposal has been received from M/s. Hindustan Motors, Calcutta for taking up the manufacture of a new model of Ambassador car.

(b) Do not arise as since 1958 the firm have introduced two new models of Ambassador car, namely, Ambassador OHV and Ambassador Mark II.

#### MANUFACTURE OF FIAT CARS

3969. SHRI J. N. HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received from the Premier Automobiles for expanding its existing capacity from 12,000 to 25,000 Fiat Cars annually;

(b) if so, whether reduction of price of the car is one of the conditions offered for consideration; and

(c) whether any decision is likely to be taken in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) :

(a) A proposal was received from M/s. Premier Automobiles Ltd. in January, 1967, for expansion of their capacity for the manufacture of Fiat Cars to 30,000 Nos. per annum in three stages.

(b) The firm has recently indicated that on reaching a production level of 25,000 cars per annum, they may be able to reduce the selling price of Fiat Car by Rs. 500/- but this reduction would not be on the present selling price but after taking into account the price increase that they expect from the

Government following the Tariff Commission's recommendations.

(c) Proposals for increase in passenger car manufacturing capacity including the proposal under reference will be considered after the Fourth Plan Target for passenger cars has been finalised and a decision has been taken on the small car project.

#### UNITED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH INDIA

3971. SHRI NANJA GOWDER : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Planters Association of South India (UPASI) has protested to Government for convening a meeting to discuss the demand made by a section of rubber goods manufacturers to allow the imports of raw rubber without inviting the producers; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) In a letter addressed to Government the UPASI have referred to the absence of any representatives of rubber producers at the meeting held on the 24th July, 1968.

(b) A final decision about the import of rubber will be taken only after consulting various rubber interest including producers.

#### HINDUSTAN PHOTO FILMS MANUFACTURING Co.

3972. SHRI NANJA GOWDER : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company in the Nilgiri are in a position to export raw films produced by them to the South East Asian and Middle East Countries;