

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) The manufacture of a track recording car produced by the Research, Designs and Standards Organization has been just completed. Trials and testing have not yet been done.

(b) The completely indigenous track recording car costs about Rs. 9 lakhs (approximately) and will be utilized for recording the conditions of the track.

(c) The cost of a similar imported track recording car, with indigenous bogie and chasis is approximately Rs. 8.50 lakhs. Capacity, dependability and durability of the indigenous car has still to be found out after trials.

Strike in Durgapur Steel Plant

325. SHRI GANESH GHOSH:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL:
SHRI B. K. MODAK:
SHRI BHAGABAN DAS:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers of the melting shop of the Durgapur Steel Plant went on one day token strike on the 1st June, 1968;

(b) if so, the demands of the workers; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to settle the dispute?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main demand was for increase in the number of crane operators to 180 against 168 recommended by the Industrial Engineering Department and 178 suggested by the Deputy Labour Commissioner.

(c) The dispute is pending before the Labour Commissioner, Government of West Bengal for conciliation.

Investment Board

326. SHRI GANESH GHOSH:
SHRI VISWANATHA MENON:
SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:
SHRI UMANATH:
SHRI R. K. AMIN:
SHRI MEETHA LAL MEENA:
SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN:
SHRI H. AJMAL KHAN:
SHRI E. K. NAYANAR:
SHRI P. RAMAMURTI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to create an Investment Board for the processing of applications for licensing of industries with foreign capital participation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It has been decided to set up a Foreign Investment Board for the expeditious processing of cases of foreign participation in industries.

The Board will have as its Chairman a Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. Secretaries to Government in the Economic Ministries, Secretary to the Planning Commission, Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Director General of Technical Development will be the members. All cases of foreign investment and collaboration will fall within the jurisdiction of the Board.

Recession in Industrial Development

327. SHRI S. P. RAMAMOORTHY:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:
SHRI D. N. DEB:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI D. C. SHARMA: