

trade balances is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-1916/68.*]

(b) The following steps are taken to increase the exports:—

- (1) Negotiation of trade agreements;
- (2) Opening abroad of offices of Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards;
- (3) Participation in Trade-Fairs and Exhibitions;
- (4) Deputation of Study and Sales Teams;
- (5) Conducting of market surveys in foreign countries;
- (6) Facilitating the setting up of industries abroad by the Indian Entrepreneurs;
- (7) Exchange of Trade Delegations and discussions.

(c) A statement is attached.

(d) and (e). It is the policy of the Government to permit import of such items only which are essential to the economy of the country and are not produced in sufficient quantity to meet the demand. Import Policy is constantly under review with due regard to the increasing indigenous production and import substitution and suitable changes are made as and when necessary.

PRODUCTS LYING UNSOLD IN HINDUSTAN STEEL LTD.

5899. SHRI BABURAO PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity, variety and the value of products of the Hindustan Steel Limited lying unsold for want of demand;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the products were manufactured without previously ascertaining the demand and saleability of the products in the market, particularly merchant mill products and billets;

(c) if not, the reasons why these products are lying unsold in a seller's market; and

(d) the steps taken to dispose of these products now rusting in the yards?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) The stocks of materials which Hindustan Steel Limited are finding difficult to dispose of are of the order of 2,78,500 tonnes valued approx. at Rs. 100 million. These mostly comprise arisings and defectives and small quantities of bars, structurals and untested blooms (mixed).

(b) to (d). Most of the unsold products being of the nature of arisings, their production is unavoidable. Special steps including reduction in price, wide publicity and attempts of exports have been taken for their early disposal.

RATES IN REFRESHMENT DINING CARS ON MADRAS-DELHI ROUTE

5900. SHRI G. S. REDDI:
SHRIMATI B. RADHA
BAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why in Refreshment cars in all trains from Madras to Delhi public is charged 0.11 paise extra as Maharashtra sales tax between Wardha and Nagpur, while there is no such additional charge in other States through which the trains pass;

(b) whether the Railway authorities propose to order uniform rates in the Refreshment Cars throughout up to the destination;

(c) whether it is a fact that Rs. 1.30 are charged for meals in the Refreshment rooms and Rs. 1.80 in Refreshment Dining Cars, while the menu, quantity of rice and chappatis and the service also are the same and even better in the refreshment rooms; and

(d) if so, the reasons for disparity in rates?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (b). Railways have instructions to recover Sales Tax, wherever leviable, at rates prescribed by each State, on sales made in each State whether in the Refreshment Cars or in the static catering units.

To eliminate the necessity of recovering Sales Tax in mobile catering units passing through different States at rates varying from State to State, the suggestion to prescribe uniform rates inclusive of Sales Tax for items sold in the Refreshment Cars and other mobile units is being examined.

(c) and (d). Charge for a vegetarian meal is Rs. 1.30 when served in the Refreshment Room/Restaurant, and Rs. 1.80 when served in Dining/Restaurant/Buffer Cars and train compartments on all Indian Railways. On the meals served in train compartments from a static or mobile unit, a service charge of 50 P. per meal is levied in view of the additional expenses incurred by the Railways on staff, etc. There is no difference in the menu prescribed for meals whether served from static establishments or mobile units.

ALL INDIA RAILWAY COMMERCIAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION, SECUNDERABAD

5901. **SHRI G. S. REDDI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Railway Commercial Clerks' Association, Secunderabad Division has voiced its grievances several times to the Railway Administration about their due arrears;

(b) whether the grievances of staff, such as arrears, night duty allowance, provision for staff quarters, stoppage of all *ad hoc* promotions in higher grade etc., have been represented; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) to (c). On the South Central Railway, as on other Railways, there are recognis-

ed Unions which take up matters concerning staff through the Permanent Negotiating Machinery and appropriate action is taken by the Railway Administration.

No representation from this unrecognised sectional association, referred to in the question, has been received by the Railway.

RAILWAY SCHOOLS AT LALLAGUDA AND KAZIPET

5902. **SHRI G. S. REDDI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Central Railway Commercial Clerks' Association Zonal Body, Secunderabad has sent any memorandum to the Railway Administration in the matter of schools in this sector;

(b) whether the Railway Schools at Lallaguda and Kazipet on the South Central Railway have been degraded; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) No.

(b) and (c). With the adoption of revised pattern of educational set up introduced by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Middle Schools up to VIII standard, which are now under reference, were either to be upgraded by addition of IX and X classes or downgraded by deletion of VIII class. As the children of Middle Schools in these two places were already going over to the non-Railway Schools after completion of standard VIII and as the financial implications were large, it was decided not to upgrade these schools, but to abolish Class VIII in these Schools. The Schools at Vijayawada and Bitragunta were upgraded in the process.

BANSAPANI-PARADEEP RAIL LINK

5903. **SHRI G. C. NAIK:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Bansa-pani-Paradeep railway line in the State of Orissa has been surveyed;