

Diversification of Steel Products

3971. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a review made recently has shown that unless immediate steps are taken to diversify the steel products, the Indian Iron/Steel exports are likely to suffer heavily within a couple of years;

(b) if so, whether Government have impressed upon the above need to both the industry in public and private sectors; and

(c) in what way the pattern of present production is brought to be changed in order to make exports ever more profitable ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c). A review recently made has shown that the demand for bars and rods is diminishing in East Asian and South East Asian countries, as re-rolling facilities are coming up there. It has therefore been considered necessary to diversify the export of steel products. The production of high tensile bars and rods in place of the conventional ones is one of the measures to achieve this. The steel plants both in the Public and Private Sectors have been made aware of the need to change production patterns accordingly.

Low Cost of Production of Steel in Japan

3972. SHRI D. N. PATODIA
SHRI R. K. SINHA :

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

(a) whether the cost of production of steel in Japan is much low as compared to that in India;

(b) if so, the factors which have helped that country to produce steel at cheaper rate; and

(c) to what extent those conditions can be introduced in India ?

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

Figures indicating cost of production of steel in Japan are not available. It is however generally known that the cost of production of steel in Japan is lower as compared to India.

(b) The main factors which are helpful to Japan are understood to be better quality raw-materials, particularly coal, lower capital cost, better technological processes and lower manning.

(c) In so far as the existing steel plants are concerned, the scope of introducing some of these conditions would be limited to technological improvements. New units can, however, be located so as to take advantage of high quality imported coal.

Indian Trade Delegations

3973. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of trade delegations, both official and non-official separately, which went abroad during the period from 1st January, 1967 to 30th June, 1968 ;

(b) the expenditure incurred on them ;

(c) whether our foreign trade position has improved as a result of these visits ; and

(d) if so, the nature of improvement ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) 27 Official and 17 Non-Official Trade Delegations went abroad during the period from 1st January, 1967 to 30th June, 1968.

(b) An expenditure of about Rs. 3,44,000 on Official Delegations and about Rs. 1,37,000 on Non-official Delegations was incurred.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. During the period January-June, 1968 our exports totalled Rs. 604 crores as against Rs. 576 crores during the corresponding period of 1967.

Foreign Collaboration Agreements

3974. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be

pleased to lay on the Table of the House a list of Companies in the private sector (with foreign Collaboration agreements), in which the foreign collaborators hold (i) more than 50 per cent, (ii) more than 40 per cent and less than 50 per cent, and (iii) more than 25 per cent and less than 40 per cent of ordinary shares ;

(b) the name and nationality of foreign collaborators in each case ; and

(c) the details of the terms of collaboration agreements in the cases where the foreign collaborators have been allowed to hold more than 50 per cent of the ordinary shares ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). Two statements giving the names of the Indian Companies, amount consented, percentage of foreign participation and the name of the foreign participants since 1951-52 are laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—2628/68*] Cases of foreign majority and minority participation are indicated in two separate statements.

(c) The details of terms of foreign collaboration are considered confidential.

Foreign Collaboration Agreements

3975. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign collaboration agreements signed during 1956-57 to 1967-68 year-wise and industrywise ; and

(b) the number of companies (with foreign collaboration agreements) in which foreign investors have been allowed to hold more than 50 per cent of the ordinary shares during 1956-57 and 1967-68 year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) A statement (Annexure A) giving the number of foreign collaboration cases approved since 1956 is laid on the Table of the

House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—2629/68*]. The industries under these collaboration include—Ferrous and Non-Ferrous metal products, Automobile, Machine tools and small tools; Industrial Machinery and equipments ; Electrical equipments; Inorganic Chemicals; Drugs and Pharmaceuticals; Rubber; Plastic; Leather; Ceramic; Glass; Petroleum and Petro-Chemicals ; Tractors; Locomotives ; Consultancy and Engineering Services.

(b) A statement (Annexure 'B') giving the number of Companies which were granted consents for initial issue of capital, having foreign majority participation is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in library See No. LT—2629/68*].

Railway Reservations

3976. SHRI HEMRAJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) which are the trains in different Railway Zones in which accommodation is fully reserved by Railways ; and

(b) how far overcrowding has been curtailed by this arrangement ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) The entire accommodation in the following trains is made available for reservation :—

- (1) 25/26 Bombay Central-New Delhi/Amritsar Airconditioned Express (triweekly).
- (2) 81/82 Howrah-New Delhi/Amritsar Airconditioned Express (triweekly).
- (3) 95/96 Bombay V. T. Howrah Airconditioned Express (Via Nagpur-weekly).
- (4) 97/98 Madras Central-Bombay V. T. Airconditioned Express (weekly).
- (5) 99/100 Madras Central-Howrah Airconditioned Express (weekly).
- (6) 79/80 New Delhi-Agra ~~Cent.~~ Taj Express (daily).