

presentation from Passengers' Associations is not specifically provided for, although there is no bar against their representation being considered for these Committees.

(b) This question will receive consideration.

Increased Charges in Railway Refreshment Rooms

4959. SHRI UMANATH :
SHRI K. RAMANI :
SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :
SHRI P. RAMAMURTI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Railway Refreshment Rooms are charging very high rate for meals, while outside hotels have reduced the charges; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to reduced the charges of meals ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) The rates charged for meals in Railway Refreshment Rooms are not high compared to those charged for similar food in hotels of comparable standard outside railway premises.

(b) A reduction in the charges at present is not feasible due to prevailing high costs of staff and raw materials.

Increase in Passenger Fare and Freight

4960. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Railway Board in a statement to the Press is reported to have stated that the possibility of increase in passenger fare and freight in the near future cannot be ruled out, as certain cost studies are still in progress;

(b) the reasons why a mention of the same could not be made in the Railway

Budget or a reference made in the House; and

(c) when the studies were taken in the hand and when a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) The Chairman and Members of the Railway Board, including the Financial Commissioner, Railways, met representatives of the press on 19th February, 1969, after the budget had been presented in the Parliament. Questioned as to whether the rationalization of the freight and fare structure spoken of in the Minister's budget speech would lead to an increase in freights and fares, they replied that it need not necessary do that, but an increase could not be ruled out.

(b) In his budget speech, the Minister for Railways stated that the purpose of rationalization of the freight and fare structure would be to bring it in line with the results of the cost studies and it should also be possible to raise resources for meeting the development requirements of the railways and of the economy.

(c) The examination was taken up in January, 1968. Decisions in respect of each aspect will be taken as and when a study is completed. The examination is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Assistance to small Industries by Hindustan Machine Tools

4962. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Machine Tools is proposing to come to the aid of small industries in a big way;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme that has been drawn up in this connection; and

(c) the reaction of the small industries in regard to the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. have a scheme to render technical and other assistance to small industries.

(b) and (c). In order to raise the productivity of small scale units, Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. have drawn up a scheme to render service like application engineering training facilities and other engineering assistance to the user industries. In addition, deferred payment facilities are also being offered to the small scale units. The experience of Hindustan Tools in Kolhapur region, where there is a high concentration of small scale industry, has been quite satisfactory. It is, however, premature to make any general assessment in this regard at this stage.

Setting up a Steel Plant in Gujarat

4954. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any techno-economic survey has been undertaken in Gujarat to find out the feasibility of setting up a steel plant in the state;

(b) whether the survey is being undertaken by the Centre; and

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in the negative, when the survey will be made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c). A limited survey for location of pig-iron complexes was undertaken by Messrs. M. N. Dastur & Co. Private Ltd. jointly with Messrs. Kuljian Corporation (India) Private Ltd. The report of this survey considered Bhavnagar in Gujarat State as a suitable site for location of a pig iron plant but expressed the view that the area was not suitable for production of steel.

भारी इन्जीनियरिंग निगम रांची के द्वार के बाहर पत्थर की मूर्ति

4965. श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी :
श्री लखन लाल गुप्ता :

क्या इस्पात तथा भारी इंजीनियरिंग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारी इंजीनियरिंग निगम, रांची के द्वार के बाहर पत्थर की मूर्ति के हाथों में दिखाई गई जंजीरों निगम के वर्तमान हालत की द्योतक हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन जंजीरों को न हटाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

इस्पात तथा भारी इंजीनियरिंग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त) : (क) और (ख). संभवत मूर्ति से तात्पर्य बिरसा मुनदा की कास्य मूर्ति से है जो स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम के सेनानी थे और जिनकी मृत्यु इस शताब्दी के आरम्भ में जब वे रांची जेल में बन्दी थे, हुई थी। यह मूर्ति रांची से भारी इंजीनियरिंग निगम को जाने वाले मुख्य मार्ग पर स्थित है और भारी इंजीनियरिंग निगम के क्षेत्र से बाहर है। यह बिहार सरकार ने बनवाई थी। इस मूर्ति का भारी इंजीनियरिंग निगम की हालत से कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है।

मध्यावधि चुनावों में भ्रष्ट तरीकों का प्रयोग

4966. श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी :
श्री लखन लाल गुप्ता :

क्या विधि तथा समाज कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार फरवरी, 1969 में हुए मध्यावधि चुनावों में अपनाये