

(a) and (b). Some of the basic handicaps under which Hindustan Steel is functioning were listed in a Pamphlet 'Performance of HSL' laid on the Table of the House on 5-4-1968. Various measures are under examination with a view to removing or minimising these handicaps. No final decisions have yet been taken.

Introduction of a Turbo-Train

5573. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are in the know of Canada's latest innovation known as Turbo-Train ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce such a train in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present stage of development of gas turbine technology in India in habits any immediate possibility of consideration of introduction of turbo trains in the country.

Loss suffered by Railways

5574. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the total amount of loss suffered by the Railways in the country during the years 1967-68 and 1968-69 in:-

(i) accidents ;

(ii) thefts ; and

(iii) damage to property etc?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (i) The cost of damage to railway property as a result of train accidents (collisions, derailments, trains running into road traffic at level crossings and fires in trains) that occurred on the Indian Government Railways during the years 1967-68 and 1968-69 (April, 1968 to February, 1969) was estimated at approximately Rs. 150 lakhs and Rs. 112 lakhs respectively.

(ii) and (iii) Compensation paid during 1967-68 on account of thefts of and pilferage from booked consignments was approximately Rs. 355 lakhs and on account of damage to such consignments was approximately Rs. 133 lakhs. Figures for 1968-69 are not yet available.

The value of railway property stolen during 1967-68 was approximately Rs. 36 lakhs. Figures for 1968-69 are not yet available.

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

5575. SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN: Will the Minister OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation has offered to help India to set up sub-contracting exchanges in the important Indian cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F.A. AHMED) : (a) to (c) . The Government of India has asked for the services of an expert from the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation for advising them on establishment of Sub-contracting Exchanges in the country. Meanwhile Mr. Robert Holtz, Secretary General, International Federation of Small & Medium Industrial Enterprises, Paris, visited India during the month of December, 1968 to study this problem. His report is awaited.

Votes Polled in Mid-Term Elections

5576. SHRI B.K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who voted in the last mid-term General Elections in February, 1969;

(b) the percentage of women voters in these elections;

(c) how it compares with the General Elections of 1967; and

(d) the reasons for poor polling in various areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI M. YUNUS SLEEM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected.

Capital Express

5577. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an inordinate delay in the starting of the Capital Express and also suspension of the Circar Express from Madras Central; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGA) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Upgradings in Scales of Senior Railway Officers

5578. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain upgradings in the scales of the senior officers have been announced by the Railway Board recently ;

(b) if so, whether due consideration in this respect has been given to the railway officials who have equally put long meritorious services in the regional Railways and other Research Organisations under the Ministry ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) to (c). There has been no revision in the scales of pay but 148 Senior Scale (Rs. 700-1250)

and 106 Junior Administrative Grade (Rs. 1300-1600) posts have been upgraded to Junior Administrative (Rs. 1300-1600) and Intermediate Administrative (Rs. 1600-1800,) grades respectively, on the Zonal Railways Production Units and other Establishments under the Ministry of Railways.

These upgradations have been made, after taking into consideration the worth of charge of each post.

In filling the upgraded posts the claims of all eligible officers who are suitable for promotion have been considered.

Railway Line from Kottayam in Kerala

5579. SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE :
SHRIMATI SUSEELA
GOPALAN :
SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN :
SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the construction of link line from Kottayam to Bodinayakkanur, Permade and Kumili in Kerala ;

(b) if so, when the construction work is likely to be started ; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to the limited funds likely to be made available for new lines in the Fourth Plan, the Kottayam-Bodinayakanur line is not likely to merit adequate priority for consideration therein.

Doubling of Railway Line from Shoranur to Mangalore

5580. SHRI P. GOPALAN :
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :
SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :
SHRI VISHWANATH
MENON :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be