

(c) The management explained to the workers that the incentive bonus rate is fixed in relation to the quantum of production. Due to a fall in demand of the steel products, production had to be curtailed and as a result workers were entitled to incentive bonus only at a reduced rate. The workers appreciated the situation and the protest was subsequently withdrawn. The possibility of increasing the sales of the products *inter alia* by exports is being explored.

Residential Accommodation in Steel Plants

2449. Shri Umanath:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Imbichibava:

Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tenements allotted to the workers in each steel plant under the Hindustan Steel Limited;

(b) the total number of workers who have not been provided with residential accommodation by the Hindustan Steel Limited;

(c) whether the management of the Hindustan Steel Limited has studied the conditions of housing of the workers who have not been provided with the housing facilities;

(d) if so, the findings thereof, and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to provide housing accommodation to the rest of the workers?

The Minister of Iron and Steel (Shri T. N. Singh): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

B.G. and M.G. Railway Lines at Katihar Junction Station

2450. Shri Priya Gupta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme for combining the Broad

Gauge Line at Katihar Junction station of the North-east Frontier Railway with Metre Gauge line for facilitating travelling public to change over without difficulty; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be implemented?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath): (a) Yes.

(b) The work is expected to be completed by March, 1967.

Upgrading of Telephone Operators on the N.E. Rly.

2451. Shri Priya Bupta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the upgrading of Telephone Operators on the North Eastern Railway has not yet been implemented; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is expected to be implemented?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) Within three months time.

Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals

2452. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Will the Minister of Supply, Technical Development and Materials Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Inspection Wing of the D.G.S.&D. in the Eastern Zone are being declared surplus;

(b) if so, the number of employees going to be affected;

(c) whether any time and work study has been undertaken before declaring them surplus;

(d) whether it is a fact that already there is accumulated work due to increased inspection work; and

(e) whether the local Directorate have already asked for more staff?

The Minister of Supply, Technical Development and Materials Planning (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) to (c). Consequent on Government's decision to effect 3% mandatory cut in the budget grant of D.G.S.&D. during 1966-67, it was decided to impose an *ad hoc* cut of 7.5% in the ministerial staff of the Inspection Wing including the Regional Inspectorates. As a result of this cut, 29 employees of the Eastern Zone have been declared surplus. The question of undertaking a work study is however, separately under consideration.

(d) No; there has been no increase in the inspection work. The outstanding load of work has been more or less of the same order during the last three years.

(e) Yes; but the proposal will be considered only after the work study by Staff Inspection Unit has been completed.

Closure of the Bengal Jute Mills, Howrah

2453. Shri Indrajit Bupta: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 to probe into the closure of the Bengal Jute Mills, Howrah and Victory Jute Mills, Calcutta;

(b) if so, the nature and purpose of the action taken; and

(c) whether in the interests of maximising foreign exchange earnings through export of jute goods, such closed jute mills will be taken over and run by Government?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi): (a) and (b). A Committee has been appointed under the provisions of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act 1951 to enquire into the

causes for the closure of Bengal Jute Mills, Howrah and the Victory Jute Mills, Calcutta.

(c) No, Sir. Each case will have to be decided on merits depending on the causes for the closure.

Import and Export of Diamonds

**2454. Shri P. H. Bheel:
Shri Kapur Singh:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been invited to a Press report in the "Financial Express" dated 11th August, 1966 and 14th October, 1966 that there is a serious leakage of foreign exchange as a result of recent orders of Government regarding the import and export of rough diamonds and finished diamonds respectively;

(b) if so, whether complaints from several honest diamond dealers have been received in this regard and whether they have pleaded for revising the scheme which was in vogue before devaluation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government in this regard?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Certain dealers represented to Government for revising the existing CCP policy downward to provide for replenishment at a figure lower than 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of the f.o.b. val. currently admissible in terms of the policy for C.C.Ps. They also wanted CCP system to be discontinued.

The customs clearance permits amount only to issue of advance licences without Government having to release foreign exchange, and are issued subject to the conditions of export of processed diamond for a value which is higher (at 150%) than is stipulated under the import replenishment scheme (at 143%).