

(b) what is the justification for this discriminatory legislation;

(c) whether Government would take steps to amend the Indian Railways Act to make it uniformly applicable to all Railways in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) Sections 49, 50, 51, 51A, 87 to 98.

(b) The above sections which apply to privately owned railways but not to Government railways are not of a discriminatory nature as they are only meant to regulate the working of private companies.

(c) & (d). In view of reply to part (b) the question does not arise.

Cement Price

1098. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) how many times since decontrol Government have allowed enhancement of cement prices;

(b) the rate of enhancement each time; and

(c) the reasons for enhancement in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) to (c). Since decontrol of cement, Government agreed to the enhancement of the f.o.r. destination selling price of cement by Rs. 0.70 per tonne w. e. f. 1.4.1966 and by Rs. 1.20 per tonne w. e. f. 1.4.1967. These enhancements were agreed to on account of increased expenditure on freight for cement movement. Beside, the packing charges for cement are revised every quarter,

according to a standard formula, on the basis of market quotations for jute bags and the proportion of the use of new and second-hand bags.

De-Recognition Of Hindustan Steel Workers' Union

1099. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Steel Workers' Union, Durgapur does not carry the confidence of majority of the workers and employees working in the Durgapur Steel plant ; and

(b) if so, the reasons as to why the recognition of this union has not been withdrawn ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT):

(a) The Hindustan Steel Workers Union is the recognised Union at the Durgapur Steel Plant. The claim of Hindustan Steel Employees Union for recognition was referred in April 1966 to the State Government, which is the competent authority for verification of membership and for advising on grant of recognition.

The matter is pending with the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of High Speed Diesel Engines

1100. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the cost of the high-speed diesel engine purchased for the capital Express train ;

(b) wherefrom it has been purchased ;

(c) whether this engine is lying unused ; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?