

(d) A feasibility report for the Switch-gear Unit was drawn up by the project authorities after obtaining layout data, specifications of machinery and equipment, quantities of raw materials schedule of year-wise manufacture etc. from the collaborators together with other relevant data and particulars regarding this scheme. It is not a fact that large scale trading activities, importing components at high cost and selling them at a low price in India is being indulged by this Unit.

(e) While specific information regarding the cost of air circuit breakers imported directly from abroad by various Electricity Boards is not readily available, it is possible that indigenous costs of this item may be somewhat higher than the cost of imported units, because of various factors, including raw material costs, level of production and the like. However, the items produced in this plant are being sold under competitive conditions in the internal market, though import is not allowed of such items which can be indigenously manufactured.

IMPORT OF COMPONENTS OF AIR BLAST CIRCUIT BREAKERS FOR SWITCHGEAR UNIT OF B.H.E.L.

5072. SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices paid for the import of the second batch of components of the Air Blast Circuit Breakers for switch-gear Unit of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., Hyderabad are still higher than the prices paid for the first batch;

(b) if so, how this deal was entered into and who was responsible for the finalisation of this deal thereby agreeing to pay higher prices;

(c) what action Government took to prevent such losses and such agreements; and

(d) whether there is a large stock of unsold imported components of Switch Gear in the B.H.E.L. on which large amount of foreign exchange was spent?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A.

AHMED) : (a) to (c). The order for the first batch of imported components was placed on ASEA in October, 1965 and the second in February, 1967. The same base price governed the first and the second batch of Air-Blast circuit breaker components, except in the case of certain items where some design improvement had taken place and only the price of such items increased for the second batch order.

(d) The position of the opening stock of imported components as on 1-4-1969 was Rs. 80.15 lakhs. This would cater for the planned production requirements of 40 Nos. of Air Blast Circuit-breakers during 1969-70, spares for the breakers already manufactured during the previous 2 years (nearly 150 Nos.), production and transit mortality during the current year, and essential guarantee-period replacements.

WAGE BILL OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES AND FOREIGN TOURS OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, OF H.E..C.

5073. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2302 on the 2nd December, 1969 and state:

(a) the actual wage bill of the officers and its proportion to that of the other employees;

(b) the actual hurdles in the way of achieving full rated production and the steps being taken to achieve the same;

(c) what orders were secured by the ex Commercial Manager, the place where he is at present and on what grounds he sought and got his resignation accepted; and

(d) the actual amount spent on the foreign tours of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman including the amount spent on officers accompanying them, and the details of the orders secured abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) The monthly wage bill of officers is Rs. 13.53 lakhs and that of other employees Rs. 44.20 lakhs.

(b) As already stated, projects of this nature have a long gestation period as pro.

duction build-up is gradual, with increased productivity taking place over a period of time as skills are acquired by the workers on heavy and sophisticated technological equipment and machinery. The general labour unrest in Eastern Region had an adverse effect on the working of this unit in the form of short supply of items ordered on other units. The labour unrest and communal trouble at Ranchi in 1967-68 also adversely affected the construction programme of the Foundry Forge Plant and supplies of castings and forgings to other units.

Further, the pattern of orders at present is different from that visualised at the time of preparation of the project reports. Some diversification of capacity had, therefore, to be undertaken which in its turn involved delay.

(c) After the visit of the ex-Commercial Manager to different places abroad in 1967, enquiries were received from Australia for various machine parts and steel flanges which were replied to. Besides, a proposal for a Machine Building Plant was submitted to Malaysia; a proposal for Rolling Mill was submitted to Cyprus and a proposal for a Rolling Mill and continuous casting machine was submitted to Kuwait.

The ex-Commercial Manager resigned from the service of Heavy Engineering Corporation for unavoidable domestic reasons. His present whereabouts are not known to the Company.

(d) The expenditure incurred in connection with the Chairman's recent tour abroad was Rs. 11,894/. Expenditure on three officers deputed to assist the Deputy Chairman during his tour abroad was Rs. 46,372.75. Information on expenditure incurred in connection with the foreign tour of the Deputy Chairman is not readily available as he returned only very recently. The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

The tours were undertaken to sort out the various outstanding problems of the company and were not for securing orders as such.

ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS TO MUSLIM EMPLOYEES OF H.E.C.

5074. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred question No. 2303 on the 2nd December, 1969 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last meeting of the Consultative Committee held at Ranchi, it was unanimously decided that his Ministry should take immediate steps for the accommodation of Muslim employees in their quarters and for getting the vacation of unauthorised occupation;

(b) whether the then Minister, Shri C. M. Poonacha, in the presence of Deputy Minister and some Members of Parliament, directed the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman to ensure immediate vacation of unauthorised occupation and they undertook to do the same in a day or two; and

(c) if so the action taken for vacation of unauthorised occupation and against the officers for having permitted the same for so long?

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

(a) At the meeting of the Consultative Committee held at Ranchi on the 26th September, 1969, it was recognised that the issue was a delicate one and required careful handling. It was decided that every effort should be made to solve the problem without arousing communal feelings.

(b) and (c). The Chairman H.E.C. had agreed that action to have the quarters vacated as expeditiously as possible would be taken, taking all the circumstances into consideration.

RAJENDRA PUL (BRIDGE) HALT

5075. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred question No. 2304 on the 2nd December, 1969 and state :

(a) the number of passengers got down from the trains at the present Rajendra Pul Halt and Hathidah Stations during the last three years;