

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;