

(b) He could not be reverted because his irregular promotion came to notice after the punishment period had expired.

(c) The officer considered responsible has already retired from service and, therefore, no action is possible against him.

**Construction of Railway Lines between Iron Ore Sites at Bailadilla and Dalli-Rajhara Iron Ore Mines in Chattisgarh**

3876. SHRI D. V. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a long term measure for the rehabilitation of refugees from East Pakistan, the Madhya Pradesh Government have urged the Centre to take up construction of a Railway link between the two iron-ore sites at Bailadilla and Dalli-Rajhara Iron Ore Mines in Chattisgarh ;

(b) if so, the precise case made out by that Government ; and

(c) the length, cost and other features of the proposed Rail Link and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) to (c). No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in the recent past. The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Department of Rehabilitation) have however, recently made a suggestion for construction of Dalli-Rajhara-Dantewara rail link for settlement of refugees from East Pakistan in Madhya Pradesh. The cost-cum-feasibility studies carried out in 1965-66 revealed that this rail link, about 218.0 Kms. in length, may cost Rs. 19.50 crores (Approx) and would not be financially remunerative. The construction of this line is, therefore, not being considered at present.

**Pilferage of Coal from Loco-Shed, Bhopal**

3877. SHRI D. V. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that coal worth

about Rs. 2 lakhs was found missing from the Bhopal Loco-Shed sometime ago ;

(b) whether responsibility for the incident has been fixed, and if so, the details of the officials held responsible and the action taken against them ; and

(c) the number of cases of irregularity which are under investigation against the official incharge of the Loco-Shed at Bhopal ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) Departmental stock verification was carried out at Bhopal Loco-Shed in February, 1970. Net shortage of 1691 tonnes of coal costing approximately Rs. 1,18,370/- was detected.

(b) Fact finding enquiry has been ordered and its report is awaited.

(c) Four cases were investigated by the Vigilance Branch against the Assistant Loco Foreman, Bhopal. In the first case, he was exonerated for want of sufficient proof. In the second, he has been punished with stoppage of promotion for two years. In the third case, disciplinary action for a major penalty has been initiated while the fourth case is under examination after investigation.

**Prices of Steel**

3878. SHRI D. AMAT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) the effect of recent increase in the prices of steel on the industrial production and consumer goods ;

(b) the various industries which have been affected on account of this price increase ;

(c) whether it is also likely to effect the production targets of the various industries earmarked during the Fourth Five Year Plan period ; and

(d) if so, the extent and nature thereof?