

(b) if so, how many cases were caught, what was the value of goods recovered, and how many Railway employees were involved in these thefts;

(c) whether it is also a fact that fans and others' goods of trains including the Kalka Mail were sold in the shops and the bogies from which fans and other material had been removed, were attached to the trains in that very condition;

(d) whether it is further a fact that the Railways have taken no concrete steps against such thefts, as a result of which there is a loss of crores of rupees; and

(e) what action Govt. propose to take against officers and employees who are responsible for such losses?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI NANDA) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such specific incidence has come to notice. However, defects and deficiencies in the coaches, caused on account of thefts, are generally made good before departure of the train from the starting station.

(d) No, it is not a fact. The following steps are taken on the railways to prevent incidence of such thefts :

(1) Uniformed RPF staff are detailed to pass train loads at vulnerable points.

(2) Secret watch is kept by RPF on the stock stabled in Sick lines, washing lines and vulnerable yards.

(3) Plain cloths staff of RPF help the local units in tracking down criminals by collecting intelligence about their activities.

(4) Crime Intelligence staff of Zonal Head Quarters of Railways keep

track of the professional notorious gangs of criminals operating on railways.

(5) Regular Campaigns "Naka-bandies" and raids are launched on the vulnerable sections and points.

(6) Patrolling by armed RPF personnel as well as by RPF Dog squads is done in major and vulnerable yards/sections.

(7) Close liaison is maintained between the RPF, GRP and local Police at various levels.

(8) Liberal use of powers invested in the RPF u/s 3 & 4 of RP (UP) ACT, 1966 is also made to check crimes relating to theft of railway property.

(e) Detailed investigation is conducted in each and every theft case, and responsibility of officers and employees, if any, by way of negligence or connivance, is fixed up for necessary legal/departmental action as per extant rules.

Closure of Industrial Units In West Bengal

263. DR. RANEN SEN :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI K. HALDER :
SHRI J. M. BISWAS :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that upto May 20 this year, 165 industrial units have been closed down in West Bengal;

(b) whether more than 20,000 employees have been rendered unemployed as a result of the closure of these units;

(c) if so, the main reasons for their closure; and

(d) the steps taken to reopen these units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The reasons for closure vary from unit to unit. In a number of cases, an important contributory cause has been growing labour indiscipline while in other cases, financial stringency, lack of orders and problems of raw material availability have led to closure (either wholly or partly) of industrial units.

(d) The reopening of some of the closed units would depend on the general industrial climate in the state, which continues to be unsatisfactory. At the same time, steps are under consideration to meet the specific problems of some of the closed units as also improvement of the order position in respect of some of the engineering units in particular. These include proposals for increased allocations of raw materials, and facilities to cover interest liabilities. Steps are also being taken to ensure more effective maintenance of law and order in the State.

Setting up of Consumer Industries in Public Sector

264. DR. RANEN SEN:
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:
SHRI NARAYANAN:
SHRI KOLAI BIRUA:
SHRI MAYAVAN:
SHRI DHANDAPANI:
SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA:
SHRI N.R. LASKAR:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to set up consumer industries in the public sector has been finalised by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): (a) and (b). It has been decided in principle that the role of the public sector might be expanded and extended to new fields where major production gaps are likely to develop in coming years. This would also include consideration of manufacture of certain consumer items through State enterprises. The selection of such items, however, together with the further details in this regard are still under examination.

Appointment of Committee to Enquire into Affairs of Standard Motors Company, Madras

265. DR. RANEN SEN:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:
SHRI C. JANARDHANAN:
SHRI ESWARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a three-man Committee to enquire into the affairs of the Standard Motors of Madras;

(b) if so, the personnel of the Committee; and

(c) when the Committee is expected to submit its report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The composition of the Investigating Body is as under:-

Chairman

Shri T.A. Varghese, ICS (Retd.),
Ex-Chief Secretary,
Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Madras.