

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) to (c). Although a few schemes for the manufacture of paper and paper board based on bagasse as principal raw material were approved in the past none of these however materialised. One Co-operative Sugar Mill in the State of Maharashtra had a proposal which was approved in 1964 for the setting up of a bagasse based newsprint-cum-paper plant in the State, but no tangible progress was made. Recently they have renewed their interest in the proposal and the firm's request in this regard is under consideration.

Nutritional Programme in India by UNICEF

4599. SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether UNICEF proposes to select six cities in India for a major nutritional programme covering all children upto the age of 19 years ;

(b) if so, which cities have been selected for the purpose and the criteria of selection ; and

(c) other details of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : (a) UNICEF has no such programme.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Study of Transport Problem Urged by Small Scale Industries Board

4600. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries Board has urged that the problem of transport be studied on a priority basis ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the suggestion ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) The Small Scale Industries Board at the 28th meeting held at Bhubaneswar on the 5th and 6th November, 1970, recommended that the special problems of North East India and Jammu and Kashmir arising out of their remote location and lack of transportation of facilities should be studied by the Government of India on a priority basis and suitable solutions arrived at.

(b) The matter is under the consideration of the Government at present.

Consultancy Work by M/s. Dastur and Company for Bokaro Steel Plant and other Steel Projects

4601. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government announced on the floor of the House that in setting up steel and other industrial concerns, Indian consultancy will be given priority ;

(b) whether in this regard the Government assured the House that M/s. Dastur and Company will be given consultancy for the work of expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant and also for other proposed steel projects ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that no order for consultancy has been given to Messrs Dastur and Company and if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have assured the House that for the implementation of the second stage of the Bokaro Steel Project, the association of M/s. Dasturco will be continued in regard to areas and responsibilities similar to those entrusted to them in the first stage.

(c) A decision has already been taken in principle to appoint Central Engineering and Design Bureau of Hindustan Steel Limited as the Principal Consultants for the second stage of the Bokaro Project and also to associate M/s. Dasturco in this work in line with the assurance referred to at (b) above. The details of the terms and conditions are being negotiated between the Project management and these two agencies.

Issue of Industrial Licences

4602. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industrial licences issued since June, 1969 till date ; and

(b) how many of these licences were for industries to be set up in the public sector ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) During the period from 1st June 1969 to 31st October, 1970, a total number of 362 licences were issued under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. Besides these licences, 515 letters of intent were issued during the same period.

(b) 6 licences and 28 letters of intent were issued for setting up of new industrial undertakings in the Public Sector.

Enquiry into Major Railway Accidents

4603. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there were three major Railway accidents recently in the space of eight days one near Rewai (Haryana), another at Khurja (near Delhi) and the third near Madras ;

(b) whether human failure, rather than mechanical failure, seem to be the cause of the accidents in two out of the three cases ;

(c) whether some leading Journals in the

country have pointed out (e. g. Economic Times of 3rd November, 1970) that a purely official inquiry which would be carried out as a matter of course is not quite satisfactory in such cases ; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to entrust all such enquiries in future to competent outsiders as a matter of policy ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) These accidents took place on 22.10.1970, 26.10.1970 and 31.10.1970 respectively.

(b) The causes of these accidents are under investigation by the Additional Commissioners of Railway Safety.

(c) Yes.

(d) Inspectors of Railways are already appointed under section 4 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (9 of 1890) for the purpose of holding inquiry into accidents and certain other matters relating to safety on railways laid down in the Railway Act. The Commissioner of Railway Safety who is the head of the Commission of Railway Safety and the Additional Commissioners of Railway Safety who are in charge of different portions of the Indian Railways exercise the various statutory powers of the Inspectors of Railways, including holding of inquiry into serious railway accidents. The Commissioner of Railway Safety functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation and is entirely independent of the railway administration. The Additional Commissioners of Railway Safety are senior technical experts having a vast experience and thorough knowledge of railway working and technology and are thus best equipped to hold technical investigations and inquiry into railway accidents.

The extant policy and the practice as well as statutory provisions in the matter of holding inquiries into railway accidents, which have stood the test of time, are considered to be adequate and satisfactory and the Government do not contemplate any change in the matter.

It may, however, be mentioned that in exceptional cases the Government appoint a Commission of Inquiry into very serious railway accidents under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.