

could not take place because of lack of quorum ;

(b) whether one of the official members of the Board was present in Delhi, but remained absent depriving the Board of its quorum ;

(c) whether the resignation of its Chairman was accepted without nominating anyone in his place, with the result that the outgoing Chairman could not hand over his responsibilities to his successor before relinquishing his charge ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to ensure smooth functioning of the plant which has already imposed a heavy liability on the country's exchequer ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir, the Member could not be present in the Board meeting as on that day he had to serve on a Selection Board of the National Productivity Council for which a commitment had been made earlier.

(c) It is true that a new Chairman had not been named when the former Chairman handed over charge. It is not necessary that an outgoing Chairman should hand over only to his successor.

(d) A new Chairman has been appointed with effect from 6th November, 1970. The organisation and methods of work at various functional levels are being thoroughly reviewed to secure rapid improvements in overall performance.

Railway Lines in Coorg District

1195. SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what Railway lines were considered and which were surveyed in the Coorg district, in the past ;

(b) the reasons why they were not constructed, considering that industrial

development of Coorg is prejudiced by the lack of Railway communications ; and

(c) the reasons why a connection is not given from Hassan or any other nearer point to Mercara and what would be the length of line involved and its approximate cost ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAY (SHRI NANDA) : (a) and (b). Surveys had been carried out in the past for a new line from Mysore to Tellichery through the Coorg region. The line was not taken up for construction as the surveys revealed that it would be unremunerative.

(c) A new line from Hassan to Mercara will be about 105 Kms. long and may cost about Rs. 15 crores. As sufficient traffic is not likely to materialise on such a line, it is not likely to be remunerative. Hence its construction cannot be considered at present.

Utilisation of Installed Capacity for Manufacture of Cigarettes

1196. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state the steps Government propose to take to ensure maximum productivity from the existing cigarette plants so that new machinery is not unnecessarily imported ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : The suggestion will be examined in the light of Government's policies.

Demand for Discontinuation of 3rd Shift Operations of Cigarette Companies by Golden Tobacco Company

1197. SHRI SANT BUX SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Golden Tobacco Company have been publicly demanding the discontinuation of 3rd shift operations of Cigarette companies ; and

(b) whether Government are aware that if such a step is taken, it would throw over 10,000 people out of employment and lead to chaos in the market, with serious repercussions on the trade and on those indirectly employed in the business ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b). The matter needs careful examination.

Proposal for setting up of Cigarette Factory in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu by Golden Tobacco Company

1198. SHRI MANOHARAN : Will Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received applications from Golden Tobacco Company for setting up new factories in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu ; and

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that these new applications have been made even though no steps have been taken to implement the licence given to this Company some two years ago to set up a cigarette factory in Gujarat ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) An application has been received from Golden Tobacco Co. for setting up a cigarette factory in Andhra Pradesh State.

(b) A licence under the IDR Act has been given to Messrs. Golden Tobacco Company for setting up a factory in Gujarat only in February, 1970. Their application for import of machinery against this project is still under consideration of the Government.

Allotment of Funds for Prohibition Programme for Maharashtra

1199. SHRI SHANKARRO MANE : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have allotted separate amount for Prohibition programme during the Fourth Five Year Plan for Maharashtra state ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : (a) No, Sir. As the subject of Prohibition is in the State list the responsibility for implementing the Prohibition at field level rests with the State Government. It is for the State Government to initiate measures for Prohibition. Only when the new measures on prohibition are introduced on area basis by State Governments, the Central Government provides 50 per cent of compensation for the loss incurred in revenue. No provision has been made for prohibition programme for Maharashtra State in Central budget.

(b) Does not arise.

Implementation of Licences for setting up of New Cigarette Factory

1200. SHRI G. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of licences issued for new Cigarette factories and the steps Government are taking to ensure that these licences are implemented within a time schedule ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the absence of such a scheme and with the failure to implement licences, the market will suffer as brands popular with the common man will go into black market ; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the cancellation of licences if effective steps to implement these are not taken within one year ?

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