

(b) Thefts were both from the Stores and Yards.

Delegation of Administrative and Financial Powers to General Managers of Railways

*1388. SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any further delegation of administrative and financial powers has been made by the Railway Board to the General Managers of the Zonal Railways since the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission were received by Government ; and

(b) if so, the main features of this further delegation ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). Not yet, Sir. Further delegation of powers is under consideration on the basis of the Administrative Reforms Commission's Report.

Increase in Price of Sheet Glass

*1386 SHRI RAMKANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the glass trade in the country has opposed the increase in prices of sheet glass ;

(b) whether the glass manufacturers have sent a petition to the Prime Minister in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received from some Glass Merchants Associations and individual firms, including a petition addressed to Prime Minister, against the increase in the price of sheet glass by the two firms viz. M/s Hindustan Pilkington Glass Works Ltd., Calcutta and M/s Indo-Asahi Glass Company Limited, Calcutta.

(c) The matter is being investigated.

Increase in Rate of Electricity Supplied by D.V.C

*1390. DR. RANEN SEN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Damodar Valley Corporation has recently increased its rate of electricity supply substantially to cover increased cost arising from various factors ; and

(b) whether all the major consumers receiving electricity supply from the Damodar Valley Corporation have lodged serious protest against the unilateral increase in power rates and if so, the further action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K.L. RAO) : (a) and (b). The Damodar Valley Corporation supplies power to the West Bengal and Bihar Electricity Boards and about 16 other regular bulk consumers. Tariffs in respect of power supplied to the West Bengal and Bihar Electricity Boards are governed by a directive issued by the Government of India to the Damodar Valley Corporation in June, 1967. The tariffs for power supply to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation were increased by the Damodar Valley Corporation on 1st January, 1970. For the remaining bulk consumers, the tariffs have been raised by 15% from 1st February, 1971. Generally these consumers have protested against the increase in tariffs. This increase has been necessitated because of increase in the cost of operations due to rise in wages and cost of spares and materials. Except for two consumers, all the others are making payments according to the revised tariffs. Of these two consumers, one case is pending in the court and in respect of the other the matter is under discussion.

Cement Factory in West Bengal

*1391 SHRI SUBODH HANSDA : SHRI D.N. MAHATA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to start a cement factory in West Bengal ; and

(b) if so, where the cement factory will be located ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE