

Car Owned by North-East Frontier Railway

*561. **Shri Dhireswar Kalita:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a costly car owned by the North-East Frontier Railway has been placed at the disposal of the General Manager on nominal payment;

(b) if so, the monthly expenditure on this account;

(c) whether he is permitted to utilise it for unofficial purposes also; and

(d) if so, whether any amount is charged for this?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (A Chevrolet Car 1963 Model has been allotted for the exclusive use of the General Manager both for official and private purposes and payment at a prescribed rate is recovered from him to cover the use of the car for private purposes.

(b) The average monthly expenditure on the car is Rs. 780/-.

(c) The car is being utilised both for official and non-official purposes.

(d) Rs 150/- P M. is charged from the General Manager, as a contribution towards the expenses of running of car in respect of the non-official journeys.

Requirements of Equipment and Machinery of Public Sector Steel Plants

*562. **Shri Virendrakumar Shah:**
Shri S. R. Damani:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Minister of Industry had given an assurance to the Engineering Industry on the 20th November, 1966 that while purchasing plant and

equipment on Government account, no special privilege will be shown to public sector manufacturing units;

(b) whether it is also a fact that contrary to this assurance, his Ministry has instructed all public sector steel plants and Hindustan Steel Works Construction, Ltd. to get their requirements of equipment and machinery from Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited, Durgapur without calling for open tenders; and

(c) whether it is proposed to withdraw the above directive because it is discriminatory and also against the public interest?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) I have no information in this regard

(b) and (c). Due to downward revision of coal production targets and slower pace of mechanisation of existing mines than earlier anticipated, the demand for coal mining equipment went down sharply and the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation which was designed was designed primarily to manufacture these items was faced with considerable idle capacity for lack of adequate orders. Apart from various other concrete measures to secure fuller utilisation of the plant, it was considered desirable that the other public sector undertakings be directed to obtain such of their requirements as are within the manufacturing capacity of the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation from that organisation without inviting open public tenders. The Ministries concerned with public sector undertakings/autonomous bodies were therefore, requested to issue suitable instructions in the matter. This arrangement is to remain in operation for a period of two years only. It is not proposed to withdraw this directive because such a course may result in the massive investment made in this project remaining idle.