

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri E. A. Ahmed): (a) and (b). The informal price control on light commercial vehicles (below 3 tonne capacity) has been lifted with effect from the 22nd May, 1967. The question of lifting control over the prices of other types of commercial vehicles as also distribution control on all types of commercial vehicles is still under consideration. A final decision in the matter is expected to be taken shortly.

(c) There has been a slackness in the demand for light commercial vehicles resulting in some cut backs in production by the manufacturers. It is hoped that the withdrawal of the informal price control on this category of vehicles may help in promoting their sales and in the revival of their demand.

Railway Facilities in Madhya Pradesh

*1314. Shri G. S. Mishra: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have requested the Central Government to increase the Railway facilities and conversion of narrow gauge Railway line into broad-gauge in Madhya Pradesh,

(b) whether the State Government have also approached the Central Government to extend the Railway facilities in Vindhya Madhya Bharat and Chattisgarh regions of the State; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). The Madhya Pradesh Government have been making certain recommendations for new lines/conversions from time to time.

(c) These recommendations have always been given careful consideration and implemented whenever found

feasible and financially justified, subject to the availability of funds and resources.

Stocks of Soya Bean Oil with S.T.C.

*1317. Shri Virendrakumar Shah: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation is holding stocks of about 20,000 tonnes of soya bean oil at Bombay, Calcutta and Kandla;

(b) the reasons for the delay in the supply of soya bean oil to the units in the interior parts of the country, even though allotments have been made as vanaspati units and the imported quantity has already been received by the State Trading Corporation; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take with a view to avoiding such a situation in future?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) to (c). Total stocks on 30th June, 1967 at Bombay, Calcutta, and Kandla amounted to 30,405 tonnes. Some difficulties were experienced by STC in the transportation of the oil from port town to up-country centres recently and steps have been taken to resolve these difficulties.

Birla Concerns

*1318. Shri George Fernandes:
Shri A. Sreedharan:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:
Shri Ram Gopal Shalwale:
Shri J. H. Patel:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Nitiraj Singh
Chaudhary:

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

(a) whether it is proposed to set up

a Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. S. Lokanathan to investigate into the Birla concerns;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Commission; and

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

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) to (c). A statement has already been made by me on the Floor of the House on 19th July, 1967 on all the relevant points.

Manufacture of Small Cars

*1319. Shri Kameshwar Singh:
Shri Liladhar Kotoki:
Shri N. R. Laskar:
Shri A. Sreedharan:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an Australian Firm has offered collaboration to an Indian firm to manufacture small cars; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this matter?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) An Indian firm has submitted a proposal for the manufacture of a car in collaboration with an Australian firm.

(b) The firm has been requested to furnish full details of their scheme to enable Government to examine its economic feasibility.

Salem Steel Project

*1320. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Shri N. K. Sanghi:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the threat given by the Chief

Minister of Madras that ruling D.M.K. party will start agitation for the Salem Project in the near future; and

(b) if so, their reaction thereto?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) Government have seen some press reports to this effect.

(b) Government hope that no such situation will arise that may come in the way of the considered and dispassionate settlement of any economic issue.

Seizure of Bags of Cement at Mahendru Ghat (N.E. Railway)

6317. Shri Ramshekhar Prasad Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 90 bags of cement belonging to Railways were seized by the Government Railway Police, Sonepore at Mahendru Ghat on the North-Eastern Railway on the 16th May, 1967;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Assistant Engineer, Sonepore is trying to sabotage the process of enquiry and is illegally helping the Contractor who is involved in this case and the Assistant Engineer is making full payment of past dues of the contractor; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Government Railway Police, Sonepore seized one truck loaded with 90 bags of cement at Mahendru Ghat on 16th May, 1967, on a report lodged by a Head Rakshak of Railway Protection Force alleging that the cement bags were being removed un-authorisedly from Railway cement godowns.