

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.