

Manufacture of Printing Machines in H.M.T.

*364. Shri Aisam Das:

Shri K. P. Singh Das:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that H.M.T. will be manufacturing printing press machines in India;

(b) whether this production will be with the collaboration of some foreign firms;

(c) if so, whether agreement has been reached in this regard;

(d) whether such a plant will be located in Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the location thereof

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) In order to diversify their production range and also utilise their present idle capacity, the Company propose to manufacture printing machinery in one of their existing units.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) Negotiations are being conducted

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Manufacture of Rolling Mill Rolls in H.E.C., Ranchi

*365. Shri Virendrakumar Shah: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi has started production of rolling mill rolls, for the supply of which the steel re-Rolling Mills in India had hitherto to depend exclusively on the imports from U.K., Germany, Japan and U.S.S.R. the prices of indigenous rolling mill-rolls are more than double the c.i.f. price of the imported rolls including the import duty;

(b) if so, the reasons for the exorbitant prices of indigenous products; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce their prices so that the indigenous products take their rightful position as proper import substitutes without causing a spurt in the cost of production of the finished items produced by the re-rolling mills? .

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export Policy of Art Silk Fabrics

*366. Shri Yajna Datt Sharma: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the abolition of the export of art silk fabrics following devaluation the art silk industry has been completely ruined;

(b) whether delinking the imports from exports has ruined the export market for rayon synthetic fabrics, as the export of Synthetic fabrics was largely nurtured by import entitlement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the import licences issued to S.T.C. are also lying unutilized and thus the industry is starving; and

(d) the steps taken to help and rehabilitate the art silk industry?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the withdrawal of the import entitlement scheme for the import of synthetic yarns against the export of rayon and synthetic fabrics. This scheme had been unfavourably commented upon in this House and it was abolished in the wake of devaluation. In its place, imports are now canalised through the State Trading Corporation and the S.T.C. also provides financial support for manufacturers and exporters who are keen to main-

tain old or develop new markets. It is, however, not considered worthwhile to encourage the export of fabrics which can be sold abroad only at a huge loss.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. Orders have been placed and imports will materialise soon. Local production coupled with imports is expected to make it possible for production in the artificial silk weaving industry to be maintained at a reasonable level.

Dismantling of narrow-gauge Railway Lines

*867. Shri C. C. Desai: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any letter from the Central Gujarat Chamber of Commerce dated the 7th June, 1967 representing against the proposed dismantling of Dahej-Samni section;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are contemplating to dismantle the narrow-gauge or metre-gauge railway lines in Gujarat such as Nadiad-Bhadran and Nadiad-Kapadvanj narrow-gauge sections, and

(c) if so, the names of the narrow-gauge lines proposed to be dismantled and the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). At present there is no proposal to close the Dahej-Samni, Nadiad-Bhadran, or Nadiad-Kapadvanj narrow gauge sections. A review, however, of the working of the N. G. railway lines on the Western Railway (including the sections mentioned above) has been undertaken recently to find out the justification for their retention/closure or conversion to wider gauge of one or more of these N.G. lines. Any decision regarding the closure of any of these N.G. sections which are working at a loss will be taken only after the review has been completed, and all the facts taken into consideration and all concerned have been consulted.

Tool-cum-Pendown Strike in H.E.C. Ranchi

*868. Shri P. K. Ghosh:
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra;
 Shri Madrika Singh;
 Shri M. S. Murti;
 Shri Yamuna Prasad Mandal;
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa;
 Shri T. Ram;
 Shri Shiva Chandika Prasad;
 Shri Kartik Orson;
 Shri N. Sreekantan Nair;
 Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri;
 Shri Madhu Limaye;
 Shri Namhar;
 Shri Rabi Ray;
 Shri Ishaq Sambhali;
 Shri S. Kandappa;
 Shri Visudevan Nair;
 Shri A. K. Gopalan;
 Shri A. K. Kisku;
 Shri Umanath;
 Shri Chittaranjan Roy;
 Shri S. C. Samanta;
 Shrimati Suseela Gopalan;
 Shri P. P. Kathore;
 Shri Vignanesha Menon;
 Shri Jyotirmoy Basu;
 Shri K. N. Pandey;
 Shri Valmiki Chaudhary;

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

(a) whether 16,000 employees of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi went on tool-cum-pendown strike from the 5th June, 1967;

(b) if so, their grievances; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in order to bring an end to the strike and also to establish good relations with the employees?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri P. A. Ahmed): (a) and (b). 6,082 workers of the Company were on an illegal tool-down strike for the period from the 5th to the 12th June, 1967 in support of a charter of demands submitted by one of the Unions. The demands relating to service conditions, increase in pay and allowances and welfare facilities.