

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). The Directorate General of Technical Development have received a few complaints from some Engineering units engaged in the fabrication of Steel products like wagons, transmission towers, bright bars and shaftings, buckets, mortar pans, L. P. gas cylinders etc. that the main steel producers are not making prompt deliveries against export allocations. These have been brought to the notice of the Joint Plant Committee/Iron and Steel Controller for remedial action.

WOODEN SLEEPERS

*263. **SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many State Governments have represented to the Railway Board against the remunerative prices of wooden sleepers and large-scale rejections;

(b) if so, whether they have also pointed out that the attitude of the Railways and large scale rejections affected their revenue and resulted in considerable wastage of good timber; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes, Sir, but only in respect of prices, the representations being from Madras, Mysore and Himachal Pradesh Governments who have pressed for an upward revision of the prices fixed by the sub-committee of the Central Board of Forestry.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, as the prices are fixed by the sub-committee of the Central Board of Forestry on which the states are also represented.

STOCK OF PIG IRON WITH M.M.T.C.

*264. **SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 31st December, 1966, the Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation had in its stock pig iron worth rupees three crores and eleven lakhs which it had imported in 1964-65;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the pig iron was stocked on a plot of land for which a rent of over Rs. 4 lakhs was paid;

(c) whether a total loss of about Rs. 1 crore was incurred on this pig iron;

(d) if so, why the stock was not disposed of earlier and whether investigations were made and responsibility for this huge loss fixed; and

(e) if so, the result of the investigations and the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The Corporation had stocks on 31st December, 1966 of 5,600 tons valued at Rs. 18.5 lakhs out of imports made in 1964-65. However, the total stocks with the Corporation on that date out of all its imports was 52,139 tons, valued approximately at 230 lakhs.

(b) Total rent of Rs. 7.52 lakhs was incurred by the Corporation from October 1964 to 31st March 1967 at the ports of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

(c) and (d). The total loss incurred on these imports by M.M.T.C. who were acting as agents of the Iron and Steel Controller is estimated at 38.46 lakhs of rupees. There was difficulty in disposing of stocks because of the fact that the price of imported pig iron was higher than that of the indigenous product. As the loss incurred by the Corporation was in the course of its normal business transaction, no special investigation was considered necessary.

(e) Does not arise.

LOSS TO RAILWAYS DUE TO CRISIS IN COAL PRICES

*265. **DR. RANEN SEN :**
SHRI HEM RAJ :
SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH :
SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :
SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA :
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH SHASTRI :
SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA :
SHRI RAM SINGH AYYARWAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private coal industry had recently threatened to stop supply of coal

to the Railways unless the Railways agreed to an increase in coal prices;

(b) whether as a result of this threat, the Railways had to suspend some of its services;

(c) if so, the extent of financial loss suffered by the Railways as a result of the suspension of services;

(d) whether the dispute over the issue of coal prices was subsequently settled; and

(e) if so, the terms of the settlement arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) It is not possible to assess the financial loss with any precision, but the loss in revenue has been estimated at about Rs. 30 lakhs.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Settlement was reached on the basis of an *ad hoc* price increase of Rs. 5/- for Bengal & Bihar and Rs. 4/- for Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra coals per tonne over erstwhile control/ceiling prices to be allowed from 1-9-1967.

MISUSE OF SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND DURING GENERAL ELECTIONS

***266. SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA :**

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have carried out investigation into the allegation that the Cement Allocation Coordination Organisation had misused the special development fund for political purposes during the general elections;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Inspection of the Books of Accounts of the Organisation has been carried out by a team of two Officers of the Company Law Board.

(b) and (c). The matter is under active consideration.

RECESSION IN INDO-WEST GERMAN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

***267. SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : SHRI SHRI CHAND GOEL : SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH :**

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the effects of recession on the Indo-West German industries;

(b) whether Government have received any fresh offers of collaboration from West Germany; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

TARIFF COMMISSION

***268. SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee on the working of the Tariff Commission has submitted its final report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations contained in the report; and

(c) the decisions taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement summarising the recommendations of the Committee is placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-1717/67.*]

(c) The recommendations are under examination of Government.

TRADE BARRIERS AGAINST IMPORTS INTO THE U.S.A.

***269. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH : SHRI MOHAN SWARUP :**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported wave of "trade protectionism" currently sweeping the United States Congress, which is likely to do