

Steel Plant and the appointment of a Chief Executive at Durgapur Steel Plant. If so, these appointments are likely to be made shortly. Although these appointments are necessary, the efficient running of the Steel Plants does not entirely rest with the top management. The day-to-day affairs of the Plant are presently being looked after satisfactorily by Committees of senior Officers at the Plants and by the Deputy Chairman at the Headquarters of the Company.

Future top Managers have to grow from within the organisation and towards this end systems of management development are being strengthened.

Delicensing of Tractor Industry

*25. SHRI ARJUN SINGH BHADORIA:

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:
SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI RANDHIR SINGH:
SHRI K. HALDAR:

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

(a) whether Government have allowed delicensing of tractor industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have received any complaint from the Tractor manufacturers in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delicensing is primarily intended to provide encouragement for the speedy setting up of additional capacities in this industry to assist the programmes of accelerated agricultural production.

(c) No, Sir.

Railway Expansion Schemes

*26. SHRI M. L. SONDHAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to

(a) whether it is a fact that in future, Railways propose to adopt a

commercial orientation in their expansion schemes instead of automatically following suggestions of the Planning Commission as in the past;

(b) whether the Railways have become sceptical of the Planning Commission's ability to assess the necessity and profitability of new lines; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Railways have discovered that traffic on certain new routes did not come up to expectation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) All new line constructions are undertaken by the Ministry of Railways after detailed study and with the concurrence of the Planning Commission. As construction of new Railway lines has to be part of an integrated Plan this procedure is being followed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) On some new routes traffic has not come up to expectation so far, whereas on other routes it has. In considering Railway lines required for heavy industrial, mineral, and other projects included in the Plans, a long-term view is taken in reckoning financial returns.

Industrial Complex at Talcher

*27. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of developing the Industrial Complex at Talcher in Orissa has finally been approved;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the State Government have already asked all the technical personnel engaged in this project to seek services elsewhere and they have all left by now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No final decision has yet been taken in the matter.

(c) No, Sir.

Loss of Iron Ore at Madras Port

***28. SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 842 on the 22nd December, 1967 regarding loss of Iron Ore at Madras Port and state:

(a) whether the disciplinary action initiated by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation against the officials responsible for the shortage of 1,16,724 tonnes of iron ores at Madras, has since been concluded;

(b) if so, the result thereof;

(c) whether the suppliers of iron ore, who had agreed to make good the loss at Madras port due to this shortage have made good the same;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation to recover that loss from the suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b). As a result of enquiry into the matter, the Commissioner for Departmental Enquiries came to the conclusion that the charges against the officers concerned were not proved. On the advice of the Central Vigilance Commissioner, the findings of the Commissioner for Departmental Enquiries were accepted by the Disciplinary Authorities concerned and the officers have been exonerated.

(c) to (e). About Rs. 10 lakhs have been recovered upto 31-1-68 from the concerned suppliers and further recovery is continuing.

Chinese Bid to Oust Indians from Trade in South East Asia and East Asia

***29. SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the trade and business run by the Indians in South East Asia and East Asia are being increasingly ousted by the Chinese competitors

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to maintain Indian trade and business in these areas; and -

(c) whether Government propose to start trade and business in collaboration with the countries in the South East and Asian regions through their respective Governments?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (e). It will not be correct to say that trade and business run by Indians in South East Asia and East Asia is being ousted by Chinese competition. However, the Government of India continue to take steps to maintain the level and to try to increase India's trade in these areas. Such steps include conclusion of trade agreements/arrangements, grant of commercial credits and deferred payment facilities for purchase of Indian goods, organisation of exhibitions, setting up commercial Sections in our Missions abroad, market surveys for the Indian products, introduction of quality control, and preshipment inspections, etc. Encouragement is also given to Indian industrialists to establish joint ventures in these countries in collaboration with local industrialists.

Asian Common Market

***30. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the desirability of having an Asian Common Market has been considered afresh;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and