

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA). A statement showing the position is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—900/68].

Cement Allocation and Coordinating Organisation.

*1251. **SHRI BABURAO PATEL :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) how the Cement Allocation and Coordinating Organisation, donated nearly Rs. 49 lakhs to various political parties when under the Companies Act only profit-making concerns can give donations upto 5 percent of their profits; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take against the Directors of Cement Allocation and Coordinating Organisation for this irregularity ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). The several facts arising out of the donations given by the Cement Allocation and Coordinating Organisation to various political parties, of which the power of the company to make such contributions is one, are under consideration.

Appointment of Stenographers on Northern Railway

*1252. **R. S. VIDYARTHI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many candidates empanelled in the year 1966 for recruitment as Stenographers on the Northern Railway have been deprived of appointments and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that further two tests for the same post have been held by the Railway Service Commission ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and how Government propose to absorb the candidates empanelled in 1966 and also those coming out successful in the subsequent tests ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) to (c). The Railway Service Commission. Allahabad held two tests—one on 12-1-65 and another on 11-8-66 and selected 30 and 19 candidates respectively. Out of those selected in the first test, 22 have been absorbed by the Northern Railway. At present, there is a ban on the recruitment of stenographers as a measure of economy and appointment of more candidates may not be possible for sometime. Empanelment by a service Commission does not by itself carry with it any guarantee of appointment for the candidates.

Ashoka Paper Mills Limited

*1253. **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4340 on the 19th March, 1968 and state :

(a) whether Government are aware that already about seven crores of rupees have been invested in the construction of the Ashoka Paper Mills Ltd. and whether foreign exchange on credit from France in the form of machinery worth above three crores of rupees has already been invested;

(b) whether the Mills capacity is 18,000 tons of paper annually and whether about three crores of rupees are required to get the mill running ; and

(c) whether Government propose to advance as loan to the Bihar Government, the amount required to run the mill, if taken over ?

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

(b) The capacity of the Mill is 18,000 tonnes per annum but the exact estimates of the additional finances required are not known.

(c) No request from Bihar Government for grant of a loan for this purpose has been received so far.