

(c) the alternative measures which are contemplated to complete the said project according to the schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY): (a) to (c). In August 1967, the Indian Aluminium Company Ltd., Calcutta, requested for Government's permission to take up negotiations with the International Finance Corporation, Washington, for a loan of \$ 3 million to cover a possible gap in the requirements connected with their new aluminium smelter at Belgaum (Mysore) and new aluminium rolling mill in Maharashtra State. The Government of India had already approved the Company's proposals for foreign exchange financing for the Belgaum smelter and Maharashtra rolling mill upto a ceiling of 13.5 million (or about Rs. 10.125 crores). In view of the increased indigenous availability of different equipment, it was felt that the Company may not require any foreign exchange in addition to the sum of Rs. 10.125 crores already arranged. The Company were, therefore, advised to expedite furnishing details of equipment needed for the rolling mill. They have now informed that they would not require any additional amount of foreign exchange for the rolling mill.

SALOONS FOR RAILWAY OFFICERS

*707. **SHRI RAJDEO SINGH :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of saloons on Indian Railways for use of the Railway Officers:

(b) the capital cost of these saloons and how much is spent on the maintenance and upkeep of these saloons;

(c) the services and equipment provided in these saloons; and

(d) whether any deduction is made from the T.A./D.A. of the Officers provided with the saloons?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) There are about 628 4-wheeled, 58 6-wheeled and 352 bogie inspection carriages on the Indian Railways in addition to 16 airconditioned/non-airconditioned saloons and 116 special type tourist cars used by VIP's and public.

(b) The capital costs of individual inspection carriages vary depending on a

variety of factors such as the date of building, type, gauge, etc. The estimated average capital cost of the existing bogie and four-wheeler inspection carriages is about Rs. 54,000 and Rs. 34,000 each respectively on the Broad Gauge, Rs. 38,000 and Rs. 18,000 on the Metre Gauge, and Rs. 21,000 and Rs. 6,000 on the Narrow Gauge. Inspection Carriages form part of the Railways' coaching stock, or the maintenance of which, there is only one head of account (No. 2100) under "Revenue Expenditure".

(c) The equipment provided in Inspection Carriages varies. In addition to facilities for sleeping, cooking, and office work, some carriages also have a care-taker-cum-cleaner as also accommodation for a stenographer.

(d) TA/DA of Railway Officers travelling on duty in inspection Carriages has been fixed taking into consideration the existing facilities provided.

AUTOMOBILE SPARE PARTS MANUFACTURING FACTORY IN KERALA

*708. **SHRI A. K GOPALAN :**
SHRI P. GOPALAN :
SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an automobile spare parts manufacturing factory in Kerala with the help of Czechoslovakia;

(b) whether any agreement has been reached in this regard; and

(c) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) The Central Government has not received any such proposal.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT

*4709. **SHRI NAMBIAR :**
SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL :
SHRI P. RAMAMURTI :
SHRI K. RAMANI :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Durgapur Steel Plant decided to go on strike from the 27th February, 1968;

- (b) if so, what are their demands; and
 (c) the steps taken by Government to settle the dispute ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY):

(a) It is a fact that one of the Unions in the Durgapur Steel Plant, viz., the Hindustan Steel Employees Union (Supported by AITUC) served a strike notice on the Management on 12 February 1968 indicating their intention to go on strike for a day on 27th February 1968 or any day thereafter within the course of six weeks.

(b) The main demand made in the strike notice was the immediate withdrawal of the lay-off of the Merchant Mill workmen so that they could resume work.

(c) At the tripartite conciliation proceedings held finally on 11 March 1968 by the Joint Labour Commissioner, West Bengal Government, the Hindustan Steel Employees Union expressed regret for the incidents leading to the fall in production in the Merchant Mill from 31 December 1967 and culminating in lay-off of the Merchant Mill workers, assured resumption, restoration and maintenance of normal work and withdrew the strike notice. On their part, the Management agreed to allow the laid off workers of the Merchant Mill to resume work from 13 March 1968 and to withdraw the suspension orders on and allow twenty-one suspended workers of the Merchant Mill to resume duties without prejudice to their proceeding with the enquiry into the charge sheets given to these workers as per rules. The conciliation officer assured that the other industrial disputes referred to in the Charter of Demands of the Union dated 12 February 1968 will be taken up for conciliation.

SUPPLY OF COKE AND COAL TO RAILWAYS

*710. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board have decided not to open tenders invited in January, 1968, for the supply of Coke and Coal to the Railways for the current year.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor:

(c) whether it is fact that all the private coalfield owners have combined to submit prices at higher rates; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) The tender has been cancelled.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

TRAVELLING CONCESSION TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*711. **SHRI LOBO PRABHU :**
SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :
SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that when a Railway employee chooses to travel by a higher class, he pays only one-third of the difference with the result that there is congestion in the compartment causing inconvenience to other passengers;

(b) when Railway staff cancel their journeys, whether they are asked to pay the ordinary cancellation fees, as they cause loss to the Railways by preventing alternative travellers; and

(c) if no, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No, Sir; only gazetted officers holding first Class 'A' passes are allowed to travel in Air-conditioned class on payment of 1/3rd the difference between the first Class and A.C.C. fares;

(b) and (c). Railway employees who cancel or require change of reservation made, on privilege passes, within 24 hours before the scheduled departure of the train, as well as those who do not cancel the reservations nor utilise the accommodation reserved are required to pay charges according to a prescribed scale.

SMALL CAR PROJECT

*712. **SHRI TULSHIDAS JADHAV :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of the Pande Commission set up in 1962 have been accepted by Government in respect of Small Car Project; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?