

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH):** (a) No, Sir.

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

**DIESEL ENGINE WORKSHOP, BHAKTIARPUR (BIHAR)**

**\*355. SHRI SITARAM KESRI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the preliminary survey and the selection of a site had been done for the location of the Diesel Engine Workshop at Bhaktiarpur in Bihar;

(b) whether the workshop site was shifted to Calcutta subsequently;

(c) whether it is a fact that the cost of construction would have been cheaper at Bhaktiarpur; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the decision to shift the workshop site to Calcutta ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA):** (a) to (c). No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**INCREASE IN PRICE OF COAL**

**\*356. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :**  
**SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have agreed to give increased price for coal consumed by them; and

(b) if so, the reasons for giving increased price ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA):** (a) Yes, Sir. A statement showing the price increases is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1633/68].

(b) Government examined the prices of coal and considered the increases as reasonable.

**RAILWAY CATERING VENDORS' TRADE UNIONS**

**\*357. SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken on the basis of the representation of the Railway Catering Vendors' Trade Unions to the Railways Catering and Passengers' Amenities Committee regarding the licensing of Commissioned Vendors or, in the alternative, their employment under the Railway Catering Department as regular salaried staff with usual rights and privileges granted to Railwaymen; and

(b) what proportion of the staff of the previous catering contractors has been taken over by the Railways ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA):** (a) The Railway Catering and Passenger Amenities Committee has made the following recommendations in regard to these matters after taking into account representations made to the Committee and all other relevant factors.

(1) *Recommendation No. 10(i)*

With a view to minimising the losses in the operation of mobile units the Committee recommend the following :

(i) The practice of appointing pay-cum-commission bearers should be replaced by some other system which would restore incentive on the part of the bearers.

(2) *Recommendation No. 15*

The Committee are of the view that in the interest of economic viability of departmental catering at stations, the present arrangements for vending should continue.

(3) *Recommendation No. 18*

The Committee are of the view that at stations where there is departmental catering, vending should be entrusted to individual vendors on a commission basis and not to vending contractors.

Recommendation at (1) above is under consideration. Recommendations at (2) and (3) have been accepted by the Government and orders for their implementation have been issued.

(b) No such record is available.

#### PRICES OF INDIAN CARS

\*358. SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the producers of motor vehicles have asked for an increase in car prices if the Pande Committee report is to be implemented;

(b) whether the present prices of Indian cars compare favourably with prices in other countries, viz. U.S.A. France, England etc; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider attaining the economy of large scale production of cars by securing majority State participation in the industry as an alternative to small car project in public sector ?

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

(a) Following acceptance of the recommendations of the Motor Car Quality Enquiry Committee, Statutory directions under section 16 of the Industries (Development and Regulations) Act, 1951, were issued to the three car manufacturers in the country to ensure compliance with some of the major recommendations of the Committee. A copy of the statutory directions was attached to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 463 in the Lok Sabha on the 23rd July, 1968. One of the directions to the manufacturers stipulates that the warranty with which cars are sold shall be uniformly valid for a period of 12 months or a distance covered of 16,000 Kms., whichever occurs earlier. One of the car manufacturing Companies, in whose case the duration of the warranty allowed hitherto was less than what has been prescribed now, has stated that they are

agreeable to the extension of the warranty period as directed provided due note is taken by Government of the additional financial burden involved and they are permitted to adjust their selling price suitably to absorb this additional burden. They have, however, not yet made a specific request for price increase on this account. Another of the car manufacturing Companies in whose case also the period of the warranty allowed hitherto was less than what has been prescribed now has also stated that implementation of the recommendations of the Motor Car Quality Enquiry Committee will involve additional heavy financial commitment. However, they have also not made any specific request so far for price increase on this account.

(b) The prices of cars manufactured in the country are higher than the prices of corresponding models in the country of origin. This is due to a variety of factors including low volume of production and higher cost of production.

(c) The question of inclusion of the small car project in the Fourth Five Year Plan is being pursued with the Planning Commission. Government would also consider all necessary and feasible measures to achieve economies in car production. The specific suggestion made in the question has been noted.

#### EXPORTS BY H.M.T.

\*359. SHRI N. R. LASKAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are taking steps to double the export performance of the Heavy Machine Tools Ltd;

(b) whether some experts of the H.M.T. had visited European countries and also the U.S.A.; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the H.M.T. propose to appoint agents in the U.K. and Western Europe ?