

(c) It is reported that the management undertook soil consolidation including cement stowing and re-alignment of buildings for the protection of the plant.

NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS, CALCUTTA

*565. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken to diversify production in the National Instruments, Calcutta;

(b) whether defence items are being produced in this project;

(c) if not, the reason for the same; and

(d) whether steps have been taken to safeguard the interests of the employees against the declaration of surpluses because of less work?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) to (c). The National Instruments Ltd. Calcutta has already developed some new items for production. Orders for manufacture of some items for Defence have also been obtained and they are in various stages of implementation.

(d) Work-load position of the company has improved and with the improvement of work load, the entire labour strength of the Company will be engaged.

डेल्टनगंज तथा पटना के बीच सीधी रेलगाड़ी

* 566. श्री मधु लिमये: क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को डेल्टनगंज और पटना के बीच एक सीधी तेज चलने वाली यात्री गाड़ी/सीधी रेलगाड़ी चलाने के बारे में कोई सुझाव मिला है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस सुझाव पर जनता की सुविधा तथा वाणिज्यिक हितों की दृष्टि से विचार किया है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण

रेलवे मंत्री (श्री जे० मु० पुनःजा): (क) जी. हाँ।

(ख) से (घ). पटना और डाल्टनगंज के बीच सीधी गाड़ी चलाने के सुझाव पर सभी दृष्टिकोणों से विचार किया गया है। इस समय इन स्टेशनों के बीच यातायात बहुत कम है इसलिए सीधी गाड़ी चलाने का औचित्य नहीं है और इन स्टेशनों के बीच मुलभ वर्तमान गाड़ियां पर्याप्त समझी जाती हैं।

PRODUCTION OF ALLOYS AND SPECIAL STEEL

*567. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that alloys and special steel now being produced in the country are facing still competition even in the domestic market because of liberal import policy for these products;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as yet no steps have been taken to standardise the products according to leading standards and this is likely to affect the sale of these products even in the Indian market; and

(c) if so, what steps are likely to be taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No, Sir. Government are not aware of any stiff competition in the domestic market due to the current import policy. Imports are allowed only on production of non-availability certificates from indigenous producers.

(b) No, Sir. The Indian Standards Institute has standardised most of the alloy and special steels and has issued a number of pamphlets. Indian manu-

facturers have been advised to manufacture such steels according to ISI specifications.

(c) Does not arise.

AGITATION BY FIREMEN

*568. SHRI R. K. SINHA :
SHRI R. BARUA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Firemen have decided at their all India Conference at Wankaner in the 4th Week of July to launch another agitation if the 14 demands are not accepted by Government; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) According to information available with the Railway, certain resolutions were passed at a meeting of the Indian Railway Firemen's Association at Wankaner on 25-7-1968.

(b) Such demands are always examined on merits by Government when brought up by recognised Unions/Federations.

RE-EXPORT OF INDIAN GOODS BY EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

*569. SHRI KANWAR LAL
GUPTA :
SHRI K. M. KOUSHIK :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of tea exported during the last two years to each of the East European countries on rupee payment basis;

(b) the quantity of tea consumption in these countries;

(c) whether it is a fact that these countries export tea, gunny bags and many other articles to other countries and earn dollars;

(d) whether it is also a fact that these countries have appointed their agents to European Common Market countries; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to stop the re-export of Indian goods to those countries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b). Statements laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1786/68].

(c) Several commodities figure on the export lists of East European countries to different regions of the world including general currency areas. In regard to tea, what is exported is mostly indigenously produced, processed or blended tea and exports are mostly to Socialist countries. There is no evidence of the export of jute goods from these countries except from one about which adequate action has been taken. There may be some isolated cases of re-export of some of these commodities originally imported from India, but the quantities involved could not have been significant.

(d) Government of India are not aware of these countries having appointed their agents in E.C.M. countries.

(e) Whenever reports of re-export of Indian goods are brought to the notice of the Government, suitable action is taken and the matter taken up with the Government concerned where necessary.

DONATIONS BY M/S. DODSAL (P) LTD. TO THE CONGRESS PARTY FOR ELECTION PURPOSES

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

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Dodsal (P) Ltd. gave Rs. 35,000 to the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee and Rs. 25,000 to the Bombay Pradesh Congress Committee in February, 1967 as donations for General Elections;

(b) if so, whether these donations were given through Shri Kantilal Morarji Desai;

(c) whether it is a fact that M/s. P. C. Hansotia and Co., the Chartered Accountants, have passed a remark