

(c) if so, the reasons for the unusual delay in revocation of their blacklisting order?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The appeal preferred by the State of Maharashtra against the judgement of the High Court of Bombay, acquitting the firm, is pending before the Supreme Court. Pending the judgement by the Supreme Court, the orders of blacklisting have not been revoked. The blacklisting orders have, however, been kept in abeyance with effect from 23rd June, 1966 in compliance with the orders of the then Punjab High Court, on a writ petition filed by the firm.

Ashoka Paper Mills Ltd.

*55. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:
SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starref Question No. 1253 on the 16th April, 1968 and state:

(a) whether Government have information that the Public Accounts Committee of the Bihar Legislature has strongly pleaded for immediate take-over of the Ashoka Paper Mills Ltd. by Government;

(b) whether Government have enquired from the Government of Bihar about the reasons for its inability to take over the mill;

(c) whether Government have made known to the Government of Bihar their willingness to supply the necessary amount as loan for taking over and running the mill;

(d) whether Government have information that the Birla and Dalmia Jain companies are pressing the Bihar

Government to get the mill liquidated; and

(e) whether Government propose to take over the mill and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) We have no such information.

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

(d) Government have no such information.

(e) No, Sir. This project in the present condition is not considered economically viable.

Import of Steel

*56. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the 1950's the Steel Ministry had made large scale purchases of steel from abroad out of the funds made available to Government by the United States;

(b) whether certain parties were discreetly approached and asked to import the steel on behalf of Government without inviting tenders;

(c) the total quantity thus imported, the names of the parties who made these imports and the prices paid per ton;

(d) whether any investigation has been made into the then prevailing international prices and the prices paid for these imports by the parties concerned with or without the approval of Government;

(e) if so, whether any discrepancy has been noticed; and

(f) if no investigation has been made, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. All purchases were made against global tender in accordance with the terms of Aid/Loan Agreements.

(c) to (f). Do not arise.

Bomb Explosion on Railway Track in Northeast Frontier Railway

***57. SHRI MAHANT DIGVIJAI NATH:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some workers of the Northeast Frontier Railway were killed in a bomb explosion while clearing the rail track on the 14th June, 1968, on the Torsa railway embankment near Hashimara area;

(b) if so, whether this was a case of sabotage by the anti-national elements;

(c) whether the pieces of the bombs have been taken over by the police for investigation;

(d) whether these bombs are country made or foreign; and

(e) the steps which Government are taking for the safeguard of railway line in that area?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) Yes, Sir. 4, out of 6 Engineering Khalaasis, who were deputed to clear the jungle on the siding line of protection Bundh of Torsa river at a distance of 16,500 feet from the main line between Madarihat and Hasimara Station on the Alipurduar-Siliguri Section died due to the explosion.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d). No piece of explosive could be traced out. In the absence of any part of explosive, it is not

possible to state whether the bombs were of country or foreign make.

(e) Does not arise.

Cooper Allen Unit

***58. SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any units of the British India Corporation Limited particularly the Cooper Allen Unit were proposed to be taken over by the Defence Ministry for production of ordnance items; and

(b) if so, Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) No such proposal has so far been received from the Ministry of Defence to take over the Cooper Allen Unit of the British Indian Corporation.

(b) Does not arise.

Industrial Licensing Policy

***59. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many amendments have been made in the Industrial Licensing Policy since 1956 and what amendments were introduced during this period;

(b) which of the amendments introduced once were later withdrawn and what were the reasons for their withdrawal after some time;

(c) what is the comparative shape of 1956 Industrial Licensing Policy at present;

(d) whether this policy has resulted in a mono-polistic trend; and

(e) if so, what remedial steps are being taken in this direction?