

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(b) which of the amendments introduced once were later withdrawn and what were the reasons for their withdrawal after some time;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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) to (c). No amendment has been made in the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956. The Licensing Policy which is an important instrument to give effect to the objectives of the Industrial Policy Resolution, has, however, been varied from time to time to suit the needs of planned industrialisation of the country. Some of the important changes made in the Licensing policy are given in the statement which is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e). The entire matter is under examination by the Industrial Licensing Policy Inquiry Committee.

Statement

1. In February, 1960 industrial undertakings which have fixed assets (viz. investment in land, buildings and machinery) not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs in value and which employ less than 100 workers were exempted from the licensing provision of the Act.

2. In June, 1964 industrial undertakings having fixed assets not exceeding Rs. 25 lakhs in value (except industrial undertakings engaged in the few specified industries like coal, textiles manufactured or processed on power looms, roller flour milling, oil seed crushing, leather and matches) were exempted from the licensing provisions of the Act, irrespective of the number of workers in the unit.

3. A number of specified industries have been exempted from the licensing provisions from time to time since May, 1966.

4. Freedom has also been given to the industrial undertakings to diversify their production upto 25 per cent of the licensed/registered capacity on the following conditions:

- (i) no installation of additional machinery except minor balancing equipment is involved.

- (ii) no additional expenditure on foreign exchange is involved.

- (iii) no articles are manufactured which are reserved for the small-scale sector/public sector.

Similarly, freedom has been given to the industrial undertakings to increase their production beyond their licensed/registered capacity upto 25 per cent of their licensed/registered capacity if it does not involve installation of additional machinery except indigenous minor balancing equipment, foreign exchange expenditure and any additional demand for scarce raw materials.

Export of Wagons to USSE

*60. SHRI D. N. PATODIA:
SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:
SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR
CHAUDHURI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the negotiations for the sale of Railway wagons to the U.S.S.R. have failed to make any progress and are virtually dead;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

- (c) what is the present stage of negotiations and by what time a final decision is likely to be taken?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

- (c) The drawings and specifications for the wagons which were in Russian had to be translated. Some technical clarifications were required. This has been completed. The Commercial offer is now being prepared in consultation with the wagon manufacturers and as soon as the commercial offer is negotiated and accepted, work will be commenced on the production of proto-types.