

reports. The necessity for securing the services of any expert to find out the drawbacks and to bring about improvement in Company's working has not arisen.

#### Closure of Coal Mines

\*645. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4498 on the 20th August 1968 and state :

(a) whether Government have made enquiry into the closure of several coal mines due to the present alignment of the Barauni-Haldia pipelines;

(b) whether it is a fact that compensation suits filed by the owners of the closed mines are pending in the Calcutta High Court and there are other claims of compensation worth crores of rupees; and

(c) whether Government, in such a situation, have made an estimate of the workable stocks of coal of different grades in the closed mines; if so, results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) No closure of collieries due to the present alignment of the pipelines has come to the notice of the Government and hence the question of enquiry does not arise.

(b) Some compensation claims of certain colliery owners are reported to be pending in the District Judge's Court, Burdwan and with the Competent Authority under the Petroleum Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to Part (a).

#### Nationalisation of Railways operated by Private Companies

\*646. SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) which of the Railways are still operated by private companies and when their existing contracts for operating them are due to expire;

(b) whether there is any scheme to nationalise them and any phased programme laid down for taking them over from the respective private companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the process of nationalisation of these railways would be completed by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan and if not, to what extent they would still continue to be in private hands?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) A statement is placed on the Table giving the details of privately owned Railways and their contracts. [Placed in Library. See LT-2638/68].

(b) to (d) . No, Sir. Some of these Railways have contracts with the Central Government under which the Central Government has an option of purchase recurring periodically and the question of their purchase under that option is considered whenever such options are about to fall due.

#### भारत का व्यापार संतुलन

\*647. श्री महाराज सिंह भारती :

श्री बेनीशंकर शर्मा :

श्री वि० च० शर्मा :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेगे कि :

(क) चालू वित्तीय वर्ष में भारत का व्यापार संतुलन कितना प्रतिकूल होने का अनुमान है ;

(ख) क्या निकट भविष्य में भारत का व्यापार संतुलन अनुकूल होने की आशा है, जिससे विदेशों से लिये गये ऋणों की अदायगी की जा सके ; और

(ग) यदि हां तो इस दिशा में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री मोहम्मद शफी कुरैशी) : (क) भारत का प्रतिकूल