

a separate State was started there, on account of Railway properties damaged, set fire to etc. and on account of diversion or holding up of passenger and goods traffic ; and

(b) the steps taken to protect Railway properties and to make Railway travel safe through the disturbed areas ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) The value of railway property lost, damaged or set fire to in the Telangana agitation upto the end of June 1969 is estimated as Rs. 203 lakhs. The loss on account of diversion or hold up of passenger and goods traffic cannot be identified as the disastrous cyclone in Andhra State coincided with the agitation and the effect of both got merged.

(b) Armed guards of Railway Protection Force/Railway Protection Special Force, Railway Police, and District Police are stationed at Railway stations vulnerable for attacks. In addition, Armed Foot Patrols and Mobile Patrols by engine with brake van have been arranged to protect Railway property and tele-communication equipment. Patrolling by engineering gangmen has also been arranged. Important trains in vulnerable sections are being escorted. Liaison is being maintained with the State Police at the appropriate levels.

Completion of Bokaro Steel Plant

*360. **SHRI D. N. PATODIA :**
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH
SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction scheduled of the Bokaro Steel Plant has been severely affected because of the labour trouble ;

(b) if so, to what extent the scheduled programme will be delayed ; and

(c) whether steps have been taken to bring about a period of industrial peace in the project area so that the work in the plant is completed without undue delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No, Sir. The labour troubles have not been of such serious nature as to affect the construction schedule of the plant.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Bokaro Steel Ltd. and Hindustan Steel Works Construction Co. Ltd. have taken steps to ensure, to the extent possible, that the legitimate grievances of the workers employed by the contractors are met by the latter. Steps are also being taken to reorganise the Security Force. Finally, the dispute which arose between the workers and the contractors early in May last has been referred to the arbitration of the Labour Commissioner, Bihar.

Import of Raw materials through M.M.T.C. or S.T.C.

2124. **SHRI K. M. KOUSHIK :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 692 on the 19th March, 1968 and state :

(a) the action taken on the suggestions made by the industrialists at the meeting of the Small Scale Industries Board held in November, 1967 that they would prefer getting their imports direct and not through M.M.T.C. or S.T.C. ; and

(b) if the suggestion of the industrialists has not been accepted, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). The suggestion could not be accepted for the following reasons :—

(i) Imports of non-ferrous metals are generally made from Rupee Payment Countries under Trade Plans. There should be one single agency to negotiate imports from these countries,

(ii) Certain chemical items are imported together both for large and small scale sectors, e.g., mercury, corkwood, mutton tallow and