

exchange of views with representatives of the Re-rollers, however, Government's concern over the rising prices of their products was conveyed to them.

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

LOSS INCURRED BY H.M.T. LTD.

*1571. SHRI JAI SINGH :

SHRI HARDAYAL
DEVGUN :

SHRI YAJNA DATT
SHARMA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Machine Tools Limited has been sustaining colossal loss ever since its inception;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the loss is primarily attributable to the lack of requisite managerial skill in the said undertaking;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to associate private management with the said undertaking with a view to making the undertaking viable; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) No, Sir. Hindustan Machine Tools have made profits in 11 out of 13 years of their working.

(b) No, Sir. Due to an unprecedented fall in demand for machine tools arising out of the general problem of under utilisation of capacity in the Engineering Industry for the last two to three years, the off take of the products of Hindustan Machine Tools has not been satisfactory. Consequently, the Company had to carry a large stock of machine tools. In order to avoid further accumulation of stocks, the Company had also to restrict production. This situation resulted in a loss to the

Company in its machine tool manufacturing operations.

(c) On the Board of Directors of Hindustan Machine Tools, the Company has four non-official Directors two of whom are senior executives from the private sector.

(d) Does not arise.

ISSUE OF LICENCES TO BIRLA AND TATA GROUPS FOR STARTING INDUSTRIES

*1572. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Birla and Tata groups have applied for licences, within the last two months, for starting industries;

(b) if so, for how many and for which industries, separately; and

(c) the response of Government to those applications ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. F. AHMED) : (a) to (c). Three applications for setting up of New Industrial Undertakings have been received during the last two months (March and April, 1970) from companies belonging to the Birla Group; none has been received from the Tata Group of companies. The three applications received from the Birla Group relate to manufacture of certain chemicals, gear cutting tools and cotton seed and other edible oils and cakes. These applications are under examination in the light of the changes in licensing policy announced recently.

DISPLAY OF RESERVATION CHARTS ON RAILWAY PLATFORMS

*1573. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the

lists showing reservations of 2-tier and 3-tier Sleeping berths and Third Class sitting accommodation are not displayed on the platforms before the trains enter the platforms and are also not legibly written or typed when displayed:

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in the matter; and

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to establish Complaint Cells in this regard on important Railway Stations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA): (a) and (b). Instructions exist that lists showing reservations in all classes of accommodation should be legibly written or typed and should be displayed prominently on the platform well in advance of the scheduled departure of the train. These instructions are generally being followed by Railways. The position will be reviewed further with a view to ensuring strict compliance.

(c) No, Sir. There are, however, arrangements for receiving and dealing with such complaints.

TRAVEL BY RAIL OFFICERS' FAMILIES ON METAL PASSES IN SALOONS

1574. **SHRI LOBO PRABHU :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 864 on the 7th April, 1970 regarding grant of full Travelling and Daily Allowances to Officers using Railway Saloons and state :

(a) the considerations which weighed with the Railway Board in permitting Railway Officers to take with them their families including dependant children while travelling on Metal Passes and also using the Saloons called as Inspection-Carriages;

(b) whether in addition to the family, the Railway Officers can carry a number of servants free besides the Attendant detailed on duty and, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether these Railway Officers also get a number of Privilege Passes and P.T.Os. and, if so, the number thereof;

(d) whether in view of the present shortage of accommodation in trains in almost all the Classes and the mounting rise in the number of such Officers, the Railway Board would consider the desirability of reducing the number of Privilege Passes and P.T.Os. and also withdrawing the facility of free travel by the families and domestic servants on Metal Passes and in Saloons; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA): (a) to (e). The travel concessions to various classes of Railway servants as they stand today are the product of a century old evolutionary process since the inception of the Railways themselves. This privilege of railway servants is in consonance with international practice on railways and indeed in other transport undertakings like the airlines, shipping companies, roadways, etc.

2. In the background of this tradition, travel concessions to railway servants have formed almost a part of their service conditions and as such, organisations of railway servants look upon this as a matter of right and are very sensitive about any question of modification of this concession to their disadvantage.

3. The character of the duties of a gazetted Railway officer is such that he has to travel on railways frequently on duty. For this purpose, a metal pass is issued to each gazetted railway officer, which he can use only for duty journeys. It entitles its holder to travel on duty in the ordinary train service or in an Inspection Carriage and covers the officer's family and two attendants in III class.

4. The Railway officers have to be out on line on field inspection duty frequently and have to tour extensively in areas under their jurisdiction. These tours are undertaken by them on duty solely in the interest of railway working, particularly for ensuring maintenance of safety standards of all installations, permanent way etc. It, therefore, becomes necessary to permit officers to take their families and servants with them on duty journeys, if they so desire,