

applied for permission for setting up of new units which was not agreed to, as they have yet to implement substantial expansion licences earlier issued to them.

(d) A decision has been taken to permit setting up of eight new units for manufacture of automobile tyres and tubes.

Price of Coca-Cola

*730. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :
SHRI S. A. AGADI :

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

(a) the increase in the price of Coca-Cola since 1968 upto October, 1970 ;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the price of Coca-Cola ; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE

(SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) The price of a bottle of coca cola during the years 1968-69 was 40 paise per bottle. During 1970 (March-July), it was 45 paise per bottle, and after July, 1970, it is 42 paise per bottle.

(b) and (c). At present Government are not considering imposing any statutory control on soft drinks since it is not included in the list of essential commodities. However, with a view to examine the possibilities of reduction in the prices, various factors including the cost of production, margin of profit, retailers, commission, etc. were gone into with the various soft drink manufacturers and they were persuaded to reduce their price by three paise per bottle.

Permits for long distance haulage to road Transport Companies

*732. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to boosting their

sagging revenues, the Indian Railways have requested the Regional Transport Authorities not to issue permits for long distance haulage to road transport companies ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government are aware that road transport has succeeded in capturing a large part of the high-rated goods traffic for long distance haulage on accounts of its ability to offer quick door to door service to the customer ; and

(d) whether Government also propose to formulate a scheme to offer the customer door to door service ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Railways already provide door to door services like "Containerised Service", "Freight Forwarders Services", Street delivery and collection services at selected stations.

Visit by Soviet Minister to Bokaro

*733. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Goldin, the Minister of Steel of Soviet Union, recently visited Bokaro ;

(b) if so, on which dates he visited Bokaro ;

(c) what are his findings about the working of the plant ; and

(d) what kind of further assistance would the Soviet Union extend to the Plant and the assurance given by Mr. Goldin in that respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) to (d). Mr. Goldin, Minister for Construction of Heavy Industries in U. S. S. R., is also the President of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society and his recent visit to