

(b) An appeal against the judgement has been filed in the Allahabad High Court. The Iron and Steel (Control) Order, 1956 has already been amended suitably and fresh orders regarding the distribution procedures are being issued. I may also state that the quashing of the resolution left the Producers free to adopt any procedure which did not violate any valid or statutory orders of Government, or contractual terms settled with their customers. It is understood, however, that they have generally followed the spirit of Government's policy.

~~THE BUDGET (MYSORE), 1971-72
GENERAL DISCUSSION. THE MYSORE
APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT)
BILL, 1971. THE MYSORE APPROPRIA-
TION BILL, 1971.~~

FIXATION OF SENIORITY OF EX-GRAIN SHOP STAFF

*157. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :
DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Boards orders No. E (NG) 57—RE 1/17 dated 2nd November, 1957 and 15th January, 1961 and No. E (NG) 61 RE1/47, dated 7th April, 1962 regarding the seniority of Ex-Grain Shop Staff were quashed by the Madras High Court on 3rd February, 1967 as per the judgement on Writ Petition No. 3110 of 1965 ;

(b) if so, whether orders giving effect to the judgement have been issued by the Railway Board; if so, when ;

(c) whether these orders were given effect to in respect of the employees of the Eastern Railways ; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) to (d) A single Judge of the Madras High Court quashed in February, 1967 the orders regulating fixation of seniority of ex-Grainshop staff on Railways. However, on an appeal filed by the Southern Railway Administration, the Division Bench of the Madras High Court have

set aside, in July, 1969, the orders of the Single Judge. The question of giving effect to the Judgement of 3rd February, 1967, therefore, does not arise.

MEMORANDUM FROM LOCO RUNNING STAFF ASSOCIATION

*158. DR. Z. A. AHMAD :
SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Loco Running Staff Association of the Southern Railway has sent any memorandum to Government about their demands and grievances ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what action has been taken to redress their grievances and to remove the discontent prevailing among them ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The specific grievances of the All India Loco Running Staff Association, as stated in their Memorandum dated 6. 2. 71, are—

(i) While abolishing the written examination for refresher courses, the oral examination has been made more intensive.

(ii) The promotional chances of the drivers have been linked with economy in consumption of fuel.

(iii) The period of strike from 10. 5. 70 to 15. 5. 70 has been treated as "dies non" instead of leave due.

(c) The Government have considered the matter and have decided that—

(i) The intensive oral examination, which is conducted in regional languages where necessary, and which pertains only to the day to day duties of the staff is essential. Since the percentage of failures is now quite small, there should be no cause for complaint.

(ii) The extent of consumption of fuel is one of the indices of efficiency of a driver.

(iii) The decision to treat the period of strike from 10. 5. 70 to 15. 5. 70 as "dies non" was taken after full consideration of all factors.

CLEARANCE OF STOCKS WITH HMT

*159. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
 SHRI T. G. DESHMUKH :
 SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI :
 SHRI B. S. SAVNEKAR :
 SHRI S. B. BOBDEY :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. is finding it difficult to clear the stocks in the domestic markets resulting in losses ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make structural changes in the administration to promote production, sales and development in all the units controlled by the HMT ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT

*160. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a strike in the Durgapur Steel Plant recently ;

(b) if so, the causes for the strike ;

(c) the number of man-hours lost during the strike period and the financial loss suffered consequently ;

(d) whether any action has been taken against the employees concerned and if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) whether the Government of India have made any study in regard to its causes ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHAN

S. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) During the month of February 1971 there were two strikes as mentioned below :

(i) There was strike of the workers led by Hindustan Steel Workers Union (a non-recognised union) in the Blast Furnace Complex at Durgapur Steel Plant from 8th February to 14th February 1971, demanding upgradation of Crane Drivers, fresh incentive scheme, relaxation of minimum educational qualification bar for the purpose of promotion of workers, etc.

(ii) Coke Oven Workers suddenly stopped work from 2.30 P. M. on 19. 2. 71 to 20. 2. 71 demanding reinstatement of a worker of the Coke Ovens Department, who was dismissed from service a year ago.

(c) The number of manhours lost during the two strikes was 78,400 and 14,733 respectively. A report on the financial loss suffered is awaited from Hindustan Steel Ltd.

(d) No action has been taken against the workers, as the strikes were called off on the basis of agreements reached between the management and workers.

(e) These are matters within the purview of the management of Hindustan Steel Limited.

PROGRAMME FOR INDUSTRIALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS

*161. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to refer to the answer to the Unstarred Question on 36 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th November, 1970 and state :

(a) whether any special programme has so far been taken up for execution for those industrially backward districts ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?