

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) There is a proposal to study the possibility of setting up a wagon-manufacturing plant in Iran.

(b) Does not arise, at this stage.

ARC REPORT ON RAILWAYS

1195. SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Reforms Commission has submitted its report on the working of Railways;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations/suggestions made therein;

(c) whether Government have considered the report; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA): (a) Yes.

(b) Copies of the report have been placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) The report was received only recently and is under the examination of the Government.

NEW STEEL PLANTS IN SOUTH INDIA

1196. SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up some steel plants in South India; and

(b) whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) Proposals on the location of new Steel Plants are under consideration. A decision is expected to be taken shortly.

BOKARO STEEL PLANT

1197. SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in Economic Times dated the 4th February, 1970 to the effect that bad management, wrong construction priorities and unusually long schedules in the construction of the Bokaro Steel Plant has resulted in the steep rise in capital-cost of its construction on a turn-key basis by the U.S.S.R.; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. GUPTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, but Government do not agree with the conclusions drawn in this article. The Bokaro Steel Project has not been undertaken on a turn-key basis by U. S. S. R. The responsibility for the construction lies with the management of Bokaro Steel Ltd., while a Soviet organisation has functioned as Consultants.

LOSS IN SOUTHERN RAILWAY

1198. SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN:

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern Railway is running in loss;

(b) if so, the amount of loss incurred during the last year;

(c) the main reasons for the loss;

(d) whether Government propose to dieselise the engines in the Southern Railway for avoiding the loss; and

(e) if so, the time by when it will be done?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Loss incurred during 1968-69 was Rs. 15.83 crores.

(c) (i) The higher proportion of metre gauge to total route length of the Railway, with its higher cost of operation;