

(f) The question of recovery of excess payments against the handling contractor at Bilaspur is under arbitration as per orders of the High Court. Calcutta given on the appeal of the Contractor against the decision of the Railway to recover excess payments from the dues of the Contractor.

The question of recovery from the handling contractor at Dongargarh does not arise as there was no case of overpayment.

PAPER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

7. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :
SHRI G. P. SOMASUNDARAM :
SHRI KANCHI KALYANASUNDARAM :
SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASAM :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Paper Development Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Corporation will be responsible for the implementation of new schemes in the public sector for the manufacture of paper and newsprint.

TOTAL NUMBER OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

8. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Class I, Class II, Class III and Class IV employees in the Indian Railways as on the 31st December, 1969; and

(b) the number amongst them who are in the scale of Rs. 70—85 ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GUZARILAL NANDA) : (a) Information as on 31-12-1969 is not readily available. As collection and compilation thereof will take time, information as on

31-3-1969 which is readily available, is given below :—

Class	No. of employees
Classes I & II	6,883
Class III	5,58,035
Class IV	7,82,939
	<hr/> 13,47,857 <hr/>

(b) 5,48,922

CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION OF STAINLESS STEEL

9. SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of consumption of stainless steel in the country in 1969;

(b) the estimated production of stainless steel in the Durgapur Steel Plant in the year 1970; and

(c) the reasons for delay in starting the production of stainless steel in the Durgapur Steel Plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) The actual consumption of stainless steel in the country is not known as no statistics are kept for the same. However, since there was negligible production in the country, the actual imports may be taken as the consumption of this commodity. Based on Jan-Sept. 1969, actual imports, the total imports, in 1969, are estimated to be 10,000 tonnes of stainless steel sheets of below 3 mm. size, costing approximately Rs. 6.5 crores.

(b) The Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur, plans to produce 5,350 tonnes of finished stainless steels in the year 1970. Of this quantity 4,500 tonnes will be sheets and plates.

(c) ASP, Durgapur has started producing stainless steels in substantial quantities since October, 1969. The delay in production of stainless steels is mainly due to two factors. Firstly, for any alloy steel producing unit it takes some time to develop sophisticated qualities of steels like stainless steel. Secondly, Low Carbon Ferrochrome which is essential for production of stainless steels, was not being produced in the country in sufficient quantities till about Sept.-Oct.