

RISE IN RAILWAY EARNINGS

848. SHR. SITARAM JAIPURIA :
SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a mid-year review of railway performance, the railway earnings so far in 1969 have considerably gone up ;

(b) if so, what are the earnings during this period as compared to the corresponding period last year ;

(c) whether it is a fact that with the rise in earnings, no relief has been given to the users ; and

(d) if so, what further passenger amenities are proposed to be provided in view of the rise in revenue ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) : (a) to (d) The gross earnings during the first six months of 1969-70 are about Rs. 26 crores more than the gross earnings for the corresponding period for 1968-69, but this is only generally in line with increase of the Rs. 50 crores anticipated in the budget for this year.

There has also been an increase in the working expenses. An increase of Rs. 32 crores in Ordinary Working Expenses was anticipated in the budget but there have been some new factors of increase like repair of flood and cyclone damage, increase in the price of coal etc. Ordinary Working Expenses in the first six months of 1969-70 are already about Rs. 22 crores more than in the corresponding period of 1968-69. No net earnings or surplus more than was budgeted for the current year can, therefore, be anticipated at present and the question of any relief to Railway users in fares and freights or of more amenities does not, therefore, arise.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO SMALL INDUSTRIES

849. SHRI S. D. MISRA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the steps including grant of bank loans at concessional rates, taken to encourage small industry as announced by the Industries Minister

Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed on 16th September, 1969 at the meeting of the informal Consultative Committee for his Ministry ; and

(b) whether the scheme to advance the entire cost of machinery required by small industrialists instead of asking the entrepreneur to pay 20 percent of the cost has been finalised and put into operation ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (b) The steps mentioned at the Informal Consultative Committee Meeting held on the 16th September, 1969 are still under consideration of the Government of India.

SUPPLY OF COOKING COAL TO STEEL PLANTS

850. SHRI Z. A. AHMED :
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel plants under Hindustan Steel Ltd. are facing the problem of deteriorating quality of cooking coal supplied to them ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the supply of cooking coal is inadequate and irregular ; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to ensure adequate supply of high quality cooking coal to the steel plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) At present supplies of coking coal to Hindustan Steel Plants are adequate in quantity. There have, however, been problems to ensure that the required qualities are maintained in the supply of the various types of coal.

(c) Government set up a Committee recently to study the problem of quality. This Committee has recommended joint sampling of Coal. Action on the basis of this recommendation is being taken by Hindustan Steel in consultation with Government and in negotiation with the Coal producers.