

इस्पात तथा भारी इंजीनियरी मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के०सी०पन्त) : (क) संभवतः माननीय सदस्य का अभिप्राय हैवी इंजीनियरिंग कारपोरेशन से नहीं अपितु हिन्दुस्तान स्टील लि० से है। सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक होने के नाते हिन्दुस्तान स्टील भारतीय कच्चे लोहे की विदेशों में मांग का अधिकांश पूरा करता है। परन्तु अपने आप मैं यह कुल विदेशी मांग का एक छोटा भाग है।

(ख) कच्चे लोहे की हमारी बड़ी विदेशी मण्डी जापान रहा है। जिसको कच्चे लोहे की 4 मिलियन टन के लगभग कुल मांग की तुलना में हमने 1967-68 में 6 लाख टन के लगभग और 1968-69 में 7 लाख टन से अधिक कच्चा लोहा निर्यात किया है। हमने पिछले कुछ वर्षों में दक्षिण कोरिया को भी थोड़ी मात्रा में इसका निर्यात किया है।

(ग) ढ़लाई कारखानों की वार्षिक खपत लगभग एक मिलियन टन है। इसमें बड़े बड़े इस्पात कारखानों के ढ़लाई घरों की खपत शामिल नहीं है।

(घ) हम सभी प्रकार के कच्चे लोहे के मामले में आत्मनिर्भर हैं। कच्चे लोहे के आयात की अनुमति नहीं है।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) The Hon'ble Member presumably means Hindustan Steel Limited when he refers to the Heavy Engineering Corporation. Hindustan Steel, as the largest producer, meets the bulk of the demand for Indian pig iron from foreign markets but this by itself is only a small proportion of the total foreign demand.

(b) Our main market for pig iron has been Japan to which we had exported about 6 lakhs tonnes in 1967-68 and over 7 lakhs in 1968-69 against her total demand of about 4 million tonnes. Smaller quantities have been exported in the past to South Korea.

(c) Approximately one million tonnes per year are consumed by foundries other than those of the main steel plants.

(d) We are self sufficient in all grades of pig iron. The import of pig iron is not allowed.]

CHANGE IN MODE OF ISSUING BALLOT PAPERS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

815. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Election Commissioner made at the last moment certain changes in the mode of issuing ballot papers in the recent Presidential Election ; and

(b) if so, what was the reason therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI MOMAMMED YUNUS SALEEM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To ensure secrecy of voting which is a Constitutional requirement under article 55(3) of the Constitution.

MISUSE OF FREIGHT CONCESSION ON HAND-LOOM CLOTH

816. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the 50 per cent freight concession given on handloom cloth is misused by many textile mills to send their cloth consignments.

(b) if so, what is the extent of this malpractice and

(c) whether any decision has been taken to discontinue the concession?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) : (a) and (b) Yes, some cases of misuse of the concessional scale of rates admissible to handloom consignments being availed of by the trade in the case of powerloom consignments also, on account of mis-declaration of the contents, have come to the notice of certain Railway Administrations, but the extent of this malpractice is small.

(c) The question whether this concession should be withdrawn is under consideration. However, in the meanwhile in order to eliminate chances of misuse of the concession and also with a view to overcome the difficulties of the staff in regard to correct realisation of freight

charges applicable to handloom products as distinct from charges leviable for powerloom products. Instructions have been issued to the Railway Administrations that this concession should be made available subject to a certificate being issued by the local civil authorities that the person tendering the consignment is either a manufacturer and/or an authorised dealer in handloom products.

ACCIDENT INVOLVING THE TOOFAN EXPRESS

817. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the detail of the accident involving the Toofan Express near Moghalsarai on the 31st August, 1969; and

(b) the causes thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) : (a) On 31-8-1969 at about 2.23 hours, while train No. 7 left Howrah-Delhi Toofan Express was running between Darauli Block Hut and Zamania station on Danapur-Mughalsarai section of the Eastern Railway, nine coaches of the train next to the engine derailed between Kms. 707/7 and 707/11 blocking the up main line.

As a result of this accident there was no injury to any one.

(b) According to the finding of the Inquiry Committee the derailment was caused by tampering with the track by some unknown person or persons.

PRODUCTION AT BHILAI STEEL PLANT

818. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of Bhilai Steel Plant has gone down while its capacity is being expanded ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for fall in production; and

(c) what steps Government has taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) :

(a) The production in 1969-70 is expected to be more than the production in previous years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

हैवी इंजीनियरिंग कारपोरेशन, रांची की भट्टियों का बन्द रहना

819. डा० भाई महावीर : क्या इस्पात तथा भारी इंजीनियरी मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रांची के हैवी इंजीनियरिंग कारखाने की दस भट्टियां प्रायः बन्द ही रहती है ;

(ख) क्या इसका कारण पाकिस्तानी तत्वों द्वारा पैदा की गई अड़चनें और वहां से आवश्यक वस्तुओं की चोरी है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस मामले में सरकार ने क्या पग उठाये हैं ?

†[IDLE FURNACES AT H.E.C. RANCHI

819. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ten furnaces of the Heavy Engineering Plant, Ranchi, generally remain idle;

(b) whether it is because of the difficulties created by Pakistani elements and theft of essential articles from there ; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in the matter ?]

इस्पात तथा भारी इंजीनियरी मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० सी० पन्त) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठते ।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.]

WORLD BANK ASSISTANCE FOR RAILWAY PROJECTS

820. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 556 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 1969 and state :

(a) whether the negotiations for IDA Credit have since been completed ;

†[] English translation.