

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN TRAVELLING ON RAILWAYS

***308. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any priority is given to school children travelling on Railways for educational purposes;

(b) whether any special arrangements are made for school children travelling in groups;

(c) whether there are instructions to Railway officials to promptly attend to the requests for such arrangements; and

(d) whether any complaints of calous behaviour by senior Railway officials have been received in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) During the period educational institutions are closed, requests for special trains for student groups are given priority over other requisitions to the extent feasible.

(b) Requests for full coaches from educational institutions for parties of students are given special consideration. Compact accommodation for student parties is also arranged to the extent feasible. Every effort is made to meet the requirements of student parties proceeding on educational tours by rail.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) No, Madam.

***309. [Transferred to the 13th August, 1968.]**

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES DECLARED SURPLUS

***310. SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Railway employees declared surplus so far both in operating and mechanical sections of the Indian Railways due to the introduction of dieselisation and electrification as on 31st May, 1968; and

(b) the number of those surplus employees who have been trained and absorbed on diesel and electric locomotives and the number of persons who

have been brought from the outside market for providing training to man the diesel and electric locomotives?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

INCREASE IN PRICES OF FOOD-STUFFS IN DINING CARS AND RAILWAY RESTAURANTS

***311. SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of tea, coffee, vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals have been increased to a great extent in the dining cars on the Railways recently; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the increase in prices of food-stuffs in dining cars and railway restaurants?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b) The prices of tea and coffee sold in Catering establishments on the Railways were revised and increased slightly with effect from 10th April, 1968, due to increase in the prices of ingredients like sugar, tea leaves, coffee powder, milk etc. The tariff for vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals served in Dining Cars or restaurants has not been revised recently, the last revision having been made in May, 1967.

HORLICKS FACTORY

***312. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to start "Horlicks" factory in Amalapuram in East Godavari District;

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of the scheme;

(c) when the scheme will be implemented; and

(d) whether any team has been sent to give a report for its location?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

STEPS TO ENCOURAGE EXPORT OF IRON AND MANGANESE ORE

*314. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing heavy export duties on iron and manganese ores are a disincentive in the field of export resulting in adverse effect to the mining activity;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal under consideration for reducing the duties;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what other alternative measures are proposed to be taken to step up the exports in view of the downward trend being shown in the world prices of these ores ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Government have received representations that the export duties on iron ore and manganese ore are acting as disincentives for export and should be abolished or reduced. When representations are made to Government they are, naturally examined but exports of iron ore have shown an upward trend in the past few years. Manganese ore exports are being maintained at the average level of about 1.2 million tonnes inspite of severe competition from other sources of supply.

Development of deep draft ports, installation of mechanised ore loading facilities and improvement of road and rail transport facilities are some of the major measures taken up by the Government to step up the exports of ores. The M.M.T.C. is also negotiating long term contracts with buyers in various countries for supply of Indian ores.

DEMAND FOR HIGHER RETENTION PRICES FOR STEEL

*315. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that steel producers have been demanding higher retention prices; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b) Presumably, the hon. Member is referring to the selling prices as there are no retention prices for steel now.

All the main producers have been demanding an increase in the prices of various categories of steel on the ground of escalation of cost of production owing to the increases in the price of coal and railway freight, increase of excise duty and sales tax and increase in wages and dearness allowance.

With the removal of statutory control of prices and distribution over all categories of steel with effect from May 1, 1967, the work relating to the fixation of prices has been entrusted to the Joint Plant Committee who consult Government before effecting any revision in the prices.

The Joint Plant Committee have announced revised prices for various categories of iron and steel on July 30, 1968.

TRAVANCORE TITANIUM CORPORATION

*316. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Travancore Titanium Corporation has been given an expansion licence for eighteen thousand tons of titanium dioxide per year;

(b) if so, when was this licence issued;

(c) what was the corporations' original production capacity; and

(d) whether any of its raw materials were imported ?