

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) The Government of Uruguay have floated a global tender for the renovation of tracks and bridges on a section of the State Railways. The State Trading Corporation has responded to the tender. The result is not yet known.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

LOCK OUT IN H.M.T., BANGALORE

924. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lock out in the Hindustan Machine Tools Factory, Bangalore since the night of 17th July, 1968 as the workers of the factory went on strike; and

(b) if so, the reasons of the strike and the lock out?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (b) Employees of the Boring Section in the Machine Tool factory at Bangalore went on 'tool down' strike on 12-7-1968. The strike subsequently spread to some other departments and by 17-7-1968, more than 1700 employees were on 'tool down' strike out a total strength of 5,100. Because of the 'tool down' strike the operations in the factory were adversely affected. Even though conciliation proceedings were immediately instituted by the State Labour Commissioner, these failed. There was no improvement in the situation and the indiscipline of the workers culminating in the intimation of the supervisory staff and loyal workers was also noticed by the management. Damage to life and property was also apprehended. In view of the deteriorating situation, the management declared a lock-out in the machine tool factory with effect from 23.30 hrs. on the 17th July, 1968.

The demands of the workers which led to the 'tool down' strike were (i) withdrawal of the warning letter issued to a worker in the Boring Section; and (ii) employees should not be called for maintenance work on Sundays (Holidays).

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Following an agreement reached between the Hindustan Machine Tools Karmik Sangha and the management in the presence of Secretary to the Government of Mysore, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Labour, and the Commissioner of Labour, on 23rd July, 1968, the 'tool down' strike was called off. The lock-out was lifted with effect from the 27th July, 1968 as provided in the Agreement.

TURTIPAR STATION IN DANGER

925. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Turtipar Railway station of the North Eastern Railway in Deoria district (U.P.) is in imminent danger of being washed away by the floods; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to protect this Railway station and the Railway track?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF IRON ORE

926. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of iron ore during 1967-68;

(b) the quantity of iron ore exported during the above period;

(c) whether the target for exports during the said period was achieved; and

(d) the targets for production and export of iron ore during 1968-69?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) The total production of iron ore during 1967-68 was 259.29 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c) 142.00 lakh tonnes of iron ore was exported during 1967-68 as against the target of 146 lakh tonnes during the year.

(d) The exports during 1968-69 have been forecast at 158 lakh tonnes. The requirements of indigenous steel industry during 1968-69 is estimated at 146 lak