

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) The export earnings of Iron and Steel during the years 1966-67 and 1967-68 are as follows:—

1966-67	. Rs. 20.00 crores
1967-68	. „53.49 „

(b) The following steps have been "taken

(i) the export of Iron and Steel are supported by grant of cash assistance on selective basis.

(ii) the Government have approved an organisation namely the Steel Exporters' Association for the purpose of organisation of exports, collection of market intelligence for dissemination to exporters, sponsor delegations and study teams for location of demand and preferences etc. A small export cell has been created in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals, Deptt, of Steel to plan steady growth of exports.

ACTION AGAINST NORTH-EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY STRIKERS

1003. SHRI G. BARBORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of the North east Frontier Railway who have been charge-sheeted or suspended for taking part in the one-day token strike by the Central Government Employees on the 19th September, 1968 ; and

(b) the number of those against whom cases have been filed in the courts of law ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b) 330 employees were placed under suspension, out of which, cases against 121 were filed in the Courts of Law and the remaining are under investigation by Police. 5 of the employees have since been discharged by the Court.

1004. [Transferred to the 18th December, 1968.]

LOSS INCURRED BY IISCO

1005. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) has lately incurred a considerable financial loss which is likely to be of the order of a crore of rupees ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) According to information available from the Indian Iron and Steel Co., the Company has been making profits for the last few years, although the profits have been diminishing progressively.

(b) Does not arise.

f SHRINKING OF CULTIVABLE AREA IN ASSAM

655. SHRI G. BARBORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the danger posed by the shrinking of the total acreage of cultivable land in Assam because of the unlimited extension of the areas under Tea allowed to the Tea Industry by the State Government; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of the peasantry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No, Sir. No extension of area for tea cultivation has been allowed by the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

tTransferred from the 29th November, 1968.