

Vice-Chairman of the BIC to represent the Government on the Board in consultation with and with the support of Mr. Bajoria. Now, let him say what has got to say on this matter. Government comes in here. He had not answered my question.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : It is a fact that he was appointed as a Director and Vice-Chairman of the BIC ...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : In consultation with Mr. Bajoria.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Because that was the arrangement.

(Interruptions.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Why not listen now? (Interruptions) Please, I think you must now listen and that will be the last.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : This was under the control of the High Court and when the BIC was released the arrangement was that, in co-operation with the Bajorias, we shall have a number of Directors who will conduct the affairs of this company ...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Bajorias' man.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : ... and, therefore, in consultation with the Bajorias, who were also the big shareholders, these Directors were appointed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question.

EXPENDITURE ON FURNISHING OF ROOMS OF RAILWAY BOARD OFFICIALS

*540. **SHRI KRISHAN KANT :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on furnishing the rooms of Chairman, Members, Additional Members, Directors and officials of similar status in the Railway Board since 1961 up-to-date category-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on re-furnishing, additions and alterations of the rooms category-wise since 1961 up-to-date year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will take care and get these figures by a

proper assessment, not by the Chairman of the Railway Board or any of the officers of the Railway Board, so that they cannot manipulate the figures of expenditure on furnishing their rooms and all that? I am asking this question in order to warn the Minister because the answers which he gave earlier were wrong. I asked him about the expenditure on his bath room especially, as he was a new Chairman, and he gave me certain figures. I told him how the figures were manipulated. A glass pane was removed from the lift and put in the bath room and thereafter the glass pane was replaced and repaired in the lift. This is how the accounts are being manipulated and this is the scandalous way in which work is being done in the Railway Board. May I ask the Railway Minister whether he will see that the assessment of the expenditure will be done by impartial people, who are not connected in any way with the Railway Board?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : There is no question of manipulating the accounts. Whatever expenditure has been incurred on furnishing and refurnishing their rooms is in the records and from the records of accounts the figures will be taken.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has given an example.

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : There is no question of manipulation even on the subject which the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : I should like to know why it is said that the figures are being collected. All the officers mentioned are sitting here in Delhi and the records are maintained here. I can understand it if they are to collect figures from different offices throughout India. Then, they will have to calculate it. Here what is the delay in collecting the figures? Another thing is the Railway Department is retrenching staff like peons, clerks, etc. At the same time, they add to their own personal expenditure. Very recently they have added a staff car to their fleet of staff cars and this is how they are spending. An officer will go to Calcutta and then telephone from there saying : "I will be coming there and the staff car should be ready." What is the cost of a trunk call from Calcutta to Delhi? What will be the taxi fare from the station to the office? This is how they are squandering money. At the same time there is retrenchment going on.

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : The question is regarding furnishing and refurnishing the rooms of Railway Board Officers and not all these things.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : But he wants you to take note of other things also.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Mr. Kumaran asked a very pertinent question. This question relates to the officers in the Railway Board. They could not get the information up till now. They are not to collect information from all over the country. This is how the Railway Board is functioning. They are manipulating the seniority list and juniority list of Assistants, L.D.Cs, etc. They have got a new tele-communication system. May I know much has been spent on the tele-communication service which has been installed, when economy measures are being taken by the Railway Board ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : The question, I believe, requires about 32 annexures to be prepared. It relates to the expenditure incurred on furnishing the rooms of the Chairman, Members, Additional Members, Directors and officials of similar status from 1961 onwards. Now, there are so many furnishing and refurnishing items. We have to compile and collect the information and it does take time. No doubt it relates to the Railway Board, but the question, as tabled, requires a series of information which will have to be compiled. We are now trying to compile and place it on the Table of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No more. Next question.

SALE OF NEW SOOTERS, WITHOUT SPARE TYRES

*541. **DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that new scooters without spare tyres are sold to the customers by the scooter manufacturers; and

(b) if so, what is the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH) :

(a) Due to short supply of tyres, the manufacturers of scooters have, as a temporary measure been marketing their scooters without spare tyres.

(b) Discussions have been held with the tyre manufacturers and steps agreed upon in order to improve tyre supplies to the scooters manufacturers for original equipment. As a result, it is expected that the supply position will improve soon. Further, if the shortage continues, it has been decided to permit imports to the extent of the requirements of scooter manufacturers for one month's production initially so that the production of scooters is not adversely affected.

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR : I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the total production of scooters in the country and the production of scooter tyres. If there is a vast difference in the production of the two, what steps are being taken to increase the production of scooter tyres ? Another question is, what is the total production of scooter tyres with different manufacturers and when the spare tyres are not being provided to the customers, are the manufacturers giving any reduction in the price of scooters and, if so, what is the price reduction ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Only the other day, in reply to a calling attention notice, I gave all these details and I would only refer the hon. Member to them.

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

*542. **SHRI R. P. KHAITAN :** †

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of industrial growth in the first two quarters of the current year and how it compares with the corresponding figures in the previous two years ;

(b) whether the declining trend in the industrial growth during the year 1966 is still continuing ; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the industrial growth ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH) :
(a) to (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri R. P. Khaitan.