

supply of equipment by Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation plant at Durga-pur to the Mining Industry on hire-purchase basis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) and (b) The Mineral Advisory Board at a meeting held in September, 1967 recommended that a scheme for obtaining mining equipment on "hire-purchase" basis should be evolved and help of financial institutions including those of State Governments be obtained for the purpose. Such a scheme was considered necessary for rendering assistance to small mine owners who require equipment and technical personnel on a 'no-profit and no-loss' basis. It was also considered that a scheme of this nature will help in utilising the spare capacity in the Engineering Units including the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation, capable of manufacturing mining equipment. In accordance with this recommendation of the Mineral Advisory Board, the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation has been requested to formulate a suitable scheme and forward the same after approval by the Board of Directors of the Company for the consideration of Government.

#### FINANCIAL CORPORATION FOR MINING INDUSTRY

1393. SHRI K. SUNDARAM : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to form a separate financial corporation to help the mining industry;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. M. CHANNA REDDY) : (a) and (b) Government considered carefully the proposal to set up a separate Finance Corporation to meet the financial requirements of the mining industry. Taking into account all relevant factors into consideration, it has been decided that the setting up of a separate Mining Finance Corporation is not called for at this stage, but the problems of mining industry in respect of finance should be tackled by adopting suitable measures, such as—

(i) Amendment of the existing rules and regulations to enable the mining industry to secure loans by mortgage of the mining leases.

(ii) Ear-marking sufficient fund for financing of the mining industry. The resources of the Development Assistance Fund being made available for re-finance to affiliated lending agencies like Industrial Finance Corporation, State Finance Corporations' scheduled banks, etc. for financing of the mining industry.

#### रेलवे टाइम टेबल का न मिलना

1394. श्री श्रीकृष्ण दत्त पालीवाल : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि आगरा कैंट और आगरा सिटी के रेलवे स्टेशनों पर उत्तर रेलवे का टाइम टेबल नहीं मिलता ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

[NoN-AVAILABILITY OF RAILWAY TIME-TABLE

1394. SHRI S. K. D. PALIWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Time-Table of the Northern Railway is not available at Agra Cantonment and Agra City Railway stations; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?]

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी० एम० पुनाचा) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) आगरा छावनी और आगरा सिटी स्टेशनों पर पुस्तकों की दुकानों के ठेकेदारों ने उत्तर रेलवे की अवतुवर, 1967 की क्षेत्रीय समयसारणियों के लिए मांगपत्र नहीं भेजा इसके लिए ठेकेदारों को आगाह कर दिया गया है इन स्टेशनों पर उत्तर रेलवे की क्षेत्रीय समयसारणियां सप्लाई करने की व्यवस्था की जा रही है ।

[THE MINISTER OF RAILWAY (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) The bookstall contractors at Agra Cantt. and Agra City stations failed to requisition for copies of the Northern Railway's zonal time-table for October, '67. This failure has been taken up with the contractors and supply of the Northern Railway's zonal time-table is being arranged.]

#### EFFECT OF FARE AND FREIGHT RISE ON PASSENGER AND GOODS TRAFFIC

1395. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent and the value to which goods and passenger traffic has been adversely affected so far during the current financial year, by the increase in fares and freights; and

(b) the action taken so far to regain the traffic lost to road transport ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Goods and passenger traffic has not been adversely affected by the increase in fares and freight rates. In fact, there has been a higher increase in passenger traffic and passenger earnings during the seven months April to October 1967 have been substantially higher. Earnings from goods traffic have been about ten crores lower than the budget participation although they were about nine crores higher than in the corresponding period of the preceding year. The level of goods traffic has fallen short of expectations and this is due to the effects of drought in many parts of the country and the general recession in the economy.

(b) The Railways are continuously striving to improve the quality of service measures such as timely supply of wagons, Quick Transit Service and Superpress Goods trains which provide fast transport, by the introduction of the container services which provide door to door service and are now available between Bombay and Ahmedabad, Bombay and Delhi and Gwalior and New Delhi and are proposed to be extended to other routes. Working Agencies and street collection delivery services also provide door to door service in certain places. Where just 1, special reduced rates are quoted and working conditions made less stringent. Special Marketing and Sales Organisation has been set up on each Railway so that all aspects of railway working that have bearing on consumer satisfaction are kept under watch at a fairly high level.

#### GERMAN ASSISTANCE FOR TECHNICAL INSTITUTES

1396. SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of West Germany have given assistance to India in establishing a Shop-foremen Training Institute in Bangalore and a Central Staff Training and Research Institute in Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the number of West German experts working there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) and (b) The Government of Federal Republic of West Germany have agreed in principle to provide assistance for the establishment of a Foremen (Meister) Training Institute at Bangalore and a Central Staff Training and Research Institute at Calcutta. The draft agreement is under negotiation and is expected to be finalised shortly. Under the agreement, when finalised, the West German Government will provide 13 Experts for the Bangalore Institute and 5 Experts for the Calcutta Institute.

#### CORRUPTION IN PURCHASE OF JAWS AND SCREW PLATES IN H.S.L., ROURKELA

1397. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 188 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd November, 1967 and state :

(a) whether the officer who was found *prima facie* guilty in connection with purchase of jaws and screw plates for lathe machine of the Central Repair shop of HSL, Rourkela in a departmental enquiry, has been sent to West Germany;

(b) if so, the name of the officer and the purpose of his visit; and

(c) when the case was referred to the Special Police Establishment for necessary action and the result of the reference?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. M. CHANNA REDDY) : (a) to (c) As the matter has been referred to SPE for investigation on November 13, 1967 and their report is still