

the several functions of the Iron and Steel Control Organisation. The decontrol of pricing and distribution of steel would not, therefore, affect his other functions which include the enforcement of the Iron and Steel (Control) Order, 1956, import and export of steel, development of iron and steel producing units, assistance to the Steel Priority Committee, Joint Plant Committee Steel Exporters' Association, etc.

(b) The Iron and Steel Controller has been asked to work out the number of employees who would be rendered surplus as a result of decontrol. The services of the surplus staff will be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs, who have a scheme for the deployment of surplus personnel. The Department of Iron and Steel are also trying to find alternative employment for them in the Public Sector Undertakings under their control.

EXTENSION OF SERVICES OF PRE-1938 EMPLOYEES

*225. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether orders were issued recently extending the service of pre-1938 employees working in offices of the different Zonal Railways from 58 years to 60 years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of employees who benefited by the order in the different Zonal Railways and in the Railway Board?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (b) The age limit of 60 years for superannuation is already in force in respect of the original pre-1938 Indian Government Railways' Ministerial staff. Recently this order was extended to pre-1938 Ministerial staff who were in the service of the ex-Company Railways or ex-State Railways, since taken over. This was

done on the analogy of pre-1938 Provincial Government employees appointed in Central Government service, being admitted to the same privilege on the Civil side.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

DEFECTIVE RECONSTRUCTION OF LADIES WAITING ROOM AT MADRAS CENTRAL

*226. SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent for the reconstruction of the ladies waiting room at Madras Central station;

(b) whether any responsible officer inspected the construction before paying the bills;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that the whole construction is defective; and

(d) if so, whether any proposal to investigate the whole affair and fix up the responsibility is under Government's consideration?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) The ladies waiting room was not reconstructed but only improvements were made to the sanitary arrangements at an approximate cost of Rs. 10,000.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. There is no defect in the construction.

(d) Does not arise in view of replies to parts (b) and (c) above.

CRISIS IN H. M. T.

*227. SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN): Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Machine Tools factory's financial and business condition is