

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a Press Report appearing in the *Times of India* dated the 19th May, 1967 to the effect that tea industry is receiving raw deal at the hands of British planters;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard; and

(c) what are the details of the action proposed to be taken? ^

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are constantly engaged in finding ways and means for improving production and export performance of Indian teas which are facing serious competition in the markets abroad.

A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri P. C. Borooah has been set up for this purpose and a Seminar under the auspices of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and the Tea Board has just been concluded.

SURPLUS RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

•497. SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON: SHRI M. V. BHADRAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway employees declared surplus in 1966 and until April, 1967 zone-wise and category-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to absorb the surplus employees?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

FOREIGN COLLABORATION

'496. SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA: Will the Minister of INDUS-

PANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 72 in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th May, 1967 and state the names of the States where 178 industries with foreign collaboration approved by the Government of India between July, 1966 and April, 1967 are going to be established?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

MANUFACTURE OF PAPER COVERED COPPER CONDUCTOR PLANT

♦499. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh State Industries Corporation had requested for the grant of industrial licence for the manufacture of paper covered copper conductor plant as ancillary industry of Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal for which a letter of intent was issued;

(to) if so, what is the present position of the case, the exact nature of difficulty experienced by Government of India in the matter of grant of industrial licence; and

(c) when the matter is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) to (c) The firm submitted their proposals for import of plant and machinery for a capacity of 1200 tons on a single shift basis. They were asked to review the scheme on the basis of same capacity on a double shift basis. Their revised proposals are awaited. The issue of an industrial licence will be considered after the revised proposals are received.