

(d) whether the decision has resulted in hardship to the staff due to reversion; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove the hardship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) The decision was taken in 1964 with the concurrence of the Union Public Service Commission and is based on similar provision made by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the rules for similar examinations held by them for the Central Secretariat Service.

(b) and (c) In implementation of the Railway Board Secretariat Service Scheme 30 vacancies in the Section Officer's grade were to be filled on the basis of this examination and whoever was eligible to appear in the examination was equally eligible to compete for all the vacancies.

(d) Pending holding of the Limited Competitive Examination and declaration of the results *ad hoc* promotions had been made to the grade of Section Officers which had to be reversed while promoting the 30 candidates successful in the examination. This naturally resulted in certain reversions.

(e) The manner in which the hardships due to reversions could be alleviated is under examination.

MINISTERS MEETING WITH SECRETARY GENERAL U.N.C.T.A.D.

***40. SHRI B. K. MAHANTI :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Secretary-General of U.N. Conference on Trade and Development met him recently; and

(b) if so, what was the nature of discussions held?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The discussions with the Secretary-General dealt with the steps to be taken for implementing the recommendations of the first United Nations

Conference on Trade and Development, and covered matters relating to the preparation for the second session of the Conference and to the proposal for holding a meeting of the '77' developing countries preparatory to the second Conference.

ACCIDENT DUE TO EXPLOSION ON N.F. RAILWAY

***41 { DIWAN CHAMAN LALL :
SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA :
SHRI RAM SAHAI :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a serious accident, due to an explosion, took place recently on the N.F. Railway;

(b) if so, the number of casualties, the extent of loss suffered by the Railways and the amount of money paid as compensation;

(c) whether this explosion was due to sabotage; and

(d) whether any hostile Nagas were involved in this explosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) According to the latest information, 57 and 41 persons are reported to have been killed and 72 and 81 persons were injured in the two explosions at Lumding and Diphu Railway Stations respectively. The loss sustained by Railways has been estimated at Rs. 2.33 lakhs. The amount of compensation will be known only after the work of the Claims Commissioner is completed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This is under investigation.

REDUCTION OF TRAINS IN SEALDAH—BONGAON SECTION ON EASTERN RAILWAY

***42. { SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of trains in Sealdah—Bongaon Section on the Eastern Railway has been reduced since April, 1966; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to shortage of Electrical Multiple Unit rakes brought about by 12 Electrical Multiple Unit coaches having been burnt during disturbances in the course of strike launched by United Leftists' Front in March, 1966 and also due to non-running of Indo-Pakistan services.

INDEGENOUS PRODUCTION OF NON-FERROUS METALS

***43. SHRI N. PATRA:** Will the Minister of MINES AND METALS be pleased to state the steps taken by Government for indigenous production of non-ferrous metals in view of its short supply due to foreign exchange difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND METALS (SHRI S. K. DEY): A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The following projects have been undertaken or licensed to increase indigenous production of non-ferrous metals :—

Aluminium

(a) Expansion of Rihand (Smelter (U.P.) by 60,000 tonnes per annum.

(b) Expansion of Mettur Smelter (Madras) by 15,000 tonnes per annum.

(c) Expansion of Asansol Smelter (West Bengal) by 5,000 tonnes per annum.

(d) New Aluminium Plant at Korba (Madhya Pradesh) (Public Sector)—1,00,000 tonnes per annum.

(e) New Aluminium Plant at Koyna (Maharashtra) (Public Sector)—50,000 tonnes per annum.

(f) New Aluminium Plant at Shara-vathi (Mysore) (Private Sector)—30,000 tonnes per annum.

(g) The construction of an aluminium plant of 30,000 tonnes capacity based on bauxite deposits in Gujarat is also under examination.

As a result of the above schemes, aluminium production is expected to increase from 1,13,000 tonnes to 2,70,000 tonnes by the end of the Fourth Plan.

Copper

(a) Expansion of production of Indian Copper Corporation at Ghatsila (Bihar) by about 7,000 tonnes per annum.

(b) Development of Khetri Project designed for a production of 21,000 tonnes per annum.

Steps are also being taken to find appropriate technical collaboration and necessary foreign exchange for the development of the following copper deposits :—

(a) Development of Kolihan, near Khetri in Rajasthan. A metal production of about 10,000 tonnes per annum is envisaged. French collaboration is being sought.

(b) Development of Rakha copper deposits in Bihar. Technical and financial assistance is being sought from U.S.S.R.

(c) Development of Agnigundala copper/lead deposits in Andhra Pradesh. Negotiations with a foreign party are now being conducted for securing technical and financial collaboration.

As a result of the above schemes it is hoped to expand indigenous production of copper from 9,600 tonnes to about 62,000 tonnes by 1970-71.

Zinc

The following projects are under implementation :—

(a) Development of Zawar Mines and establishment of a zinc smelter to produce about 18,000 tonnes of metal per annum.

(b) Construction of a zinc smelter of 20,000 tonnes capacity at Alwaye in Kerala. The smelter will smelt zinc metal from imported zinc concentrates.