

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA : It is for the State Government to decide so far as the State Plan is concerned. So far as Pinjore is concerned, it is only doubling the capacity.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Three years ago, the Punjab Government mooted the question of setting up a pig iron plant. May I ask the hon. Minister what are the reasons for its taking so long to set up a plant ? How far the scheme has gone ? May I know if its installed capacity has been sanctioned, if orders for machinery have been placed and when production is likely to start

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA : It is true that it has taken three years. That is because the Punjab Government first of all thought of entering into collaboration agreement with a U.K. firm. Then it was found that apart from the high cost it was difficult to obtain U.K. foreign exchange. Now they have entered into a collaboration agreement with a German firm and they have been asked to go ahead.

#### **RETRENCHMENT OF WORK MISTRIES WORKING ON WESTERN RAILWAY**

\*35. SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of work Mistries on the Western Railway in Madhya Pradesh who were retrenched from service in 1965 and in 1966;

(b) the number of fresh hands recruited after such retrenchment; and

(c) whether Government have received any complaints from the retrenched hands; and if so, what steps were taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) and (b) State-wise information is not being maintained.

(c) No, Sir; does not arise.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS : I would like to know whether work Mistries were retrenched from the Western Railway.

SHRI SHAM NATH : yes, Sir.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS : I would like to know on what basis they have been retrenched.

SHRI SHAM NATH : They are retrenched on the basis of seniority, that is, the junior most person was discharged first.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR : Is Government aware that recently these Mistries had their conference in Bina and they sent their memornadum to the Railway Ministry ? If the Railway Ministry received the memorandum what action the Ministry is taking on their demands?

SHRI SHAM NATH : I would require notice in regard to this.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS : I am informed that they have already put in a complaint to the Railway Minister. I would like to know whether that has been received and, if so, what action is being taken.

SHRI SHAM NATH : According to information furnished to me, no complaints have been received in Tegard to this retrenchment.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS : I want to know whether the matter is being looked into.

SHRI SHAM NATH : It is not a question of our looking into the matter because when staff is surplus, then it has to be retrenched.

#### **DUTY FREE IMPORT OF HANDLOOM BY FRANCE**

\*36. SHRI M. C. SHAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of France have agreed to allow duty free imports of Indian handloom products; and

(b) if so, to what extent export of handloom products to France is likely to increase in 1966-67 ?