

**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 memorandum 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 regard 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?