

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. An Expert Committee was, however, appointed in 1956 to go into the question of resiting Dhanushkodi Pier near Aryangundu, whose recommendations were considered during 1956—58. The question of shifting Dhanushkodi Pier was dropped because of the Ministry of Transport's proposal to introduce ferry service between Tuticorin and Colombo.

HUNGER STRIKE AT H.M.T. LTD.

130. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees of the Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., have resorted to hunger strike to press their demands for increased wages, linking of D.A. with the cost of living, etc.; and

(b) if so, what are the reactions of Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA): (a) There was a hunger strike in the Bangalore factory of Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., in April last. It was organised in support of the 'Charter of Demands' submitted by the Hindustan Machine Tools Karmik Sangha, asking for increased labour amenities, payment of bonus and higher wages, etc. The demand had been made notwithstanding the fact that the existing truce agreement between the management and the union still continued to be valid. Realising their mistake, the Union called off the hunger strike after a week on 1st May, 1965.

(b) The earlier truce agreement having expired on 9th August, 1965, negotiations are going on between the management and the workers for a fresh agreement.

SALE OF INDIAN TEA IN ETHIOPIA

131. SHRIMATI LALITA RAJAGOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is good market for Indian tea in Ethiopia; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Ethiopia is predominantly a Coffee drinking country and imports only a small quantity of tea. There does not appear to be any sizable market for tea as such or for Indian tea in that country.

(b) Does not arise.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANK DEPOSIT FOR SCOOTER REGISTRATION

132. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state the reasons for the issue of a directive by the Ministry that applications for cars, scooters and motor vehicles should hence-forth be registered only against a security deposit in post office savings bank account?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA): A recent review of the working of the various Control Orders regarding distribution and sale of vehicles had revealed that most of the banks were issuing bank guarantees in support of the orders for such vehicles, without insisting on actual deposits of the amounts prescribed under the various Control Orders. This had led to large-scale bookings by non-genuine customers. In order to eliminate such non-genuine orders, it was decided to amend the various Control Orders to provide for opening of Post Office Savings Bank Deposit Accounts in place of bank guarantees.