

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is the transport difficulty the only reason why there is shortage of coal or is it the lack of stocks of coal?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Transport difficulty is the main difficulty. Another difficulty is the disruption of lines because of natural havocs.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if the Millowners* Federation, Ahmedabad, did not complain that certain mills did not have the supply of coal for even two days?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: It did happen because some of the mills did not take care to have ten days' stock with them; they ran it out.

CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES AT BHILAI

*668. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soviet specialists, designers, engineers and architects have found out the possibility of mass construction of houses in the steel town of Bhilai; and

(b) if so, what are the special features of this scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): (a) The report of the Team has not yet been received.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know, Sir, whether there was discussion between the Bhilai Plant officers and the expert from Russia about this, and whether our officers have given some information to the Government?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: Some officers of our C.P.W.D. and the N.B.O. were associated with this Russian team. It is proposed that a team of our engineers would be going to Russia to study the projects on the spot there.

SHORTAGE OF FORMS IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES

*669. DR. A. N. BOSE: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of various forms in Government offices; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): (a) and (b) There is a general shortage of Government forms mainly due to shortage of paper in the country.

DR. A. N. BOSE: Is anything being done to meet this shortage of forms?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: Recently Government have allowed importation of 8,800 tons of paper from outside.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Government have said that forms are short because there is no paper. But at the same time we find newsprint selling in Calcutta in the blackmarket. May I know, Sir, whether Government has given any instruction to local authorities to tap some from these sources for supply of necessary forms?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: As far as the two questions are concerned, they are not related at all. It is a fact that there is some scarcity. Therefore, we are taking steps to increase production as well as allow import.

*670. [The questioner (Shri P. L. Kureel urj Talib) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3560-61 infra.]

INDO-BRITISH TALKS FOR SUPPLY OF ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES BY THE HEAVY ELECTRICALS LTD.

*671. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of experts of a British Electrical concern is currently negotiating with the