

MENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

(a) The Detailed Project Report in respect of Bhavnagar Project was received in January, 1967. By then, there had been a steep fall in the demand for machine tools due to the recessionary conditions in the economy. The situation was, therefore, re-appraised and it was decided that, in view of the sharp fall in demand for machine tools and the revised lower target for the machine tool industry, it should be examined whether there was *prima facie* justification for putting up a new plant for the manufacture of various items of machine tools and whether these items of machine tools could not be manufactured in one of the existing Public Sector Units. Further studies revealed that the Heavy Machine Tool Plant of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Ranchi, and Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore, could between themselves undertake the manufacture of virtually all the machine tools programmed for production at the Bhavnagar project. The establishment of the Bhavnagar project was, in the circumstances, deferred.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As and when demand for machine tools develops substantially and techno-economic considerations would justify setting up of a new machine tool project, location of such a new plant at Bhavnagar will receive priority consideration.

Representation to raise and repair Platform at Paravoor, Kerala

3367. SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation demanding repairing and raising the platform at Paravoor (Kerala) ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) (a) : Yes.

(b) Raised platforms at stations are provided on a programmed basis duly approved by the Railway Users' Amenities Committee who decide the priority for such works. The request for raised platform at Paravoor will be put up to the Railway Users' Amenities

Committee and if approved by them, the work will be included in future Works Programme as and when funds can be made available.

Non-Availability of Wagons Between Quilon and Trivandrum Railway Routes

3368. SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to non-availability of wagons especially between Quilon and Trivandrum Railway routes ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the non-availability of wagons ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide sufficient wagons ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Except for quota limited and restricted routes, there has been no difficulty in availability of wagons for loading of goods traffic on Quilon-Trivandrum section of Southern Railway, During January to June (upto 15th) this year, 2811 wagons were loaded from the stations on the section as against only 1938 wagons during the corresponding period of 1970. As on 15th June 1971, only 90 indents were outstanding.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shortage of Tyres in West Bengal

3369. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a acute shortage of tyres in West Bengal ;

(b) whether this has resulted in a flourishing black market in tyres ;

(c) whether the shortage of tyres has affected bus and goods transport services in the State ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to relieve the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT