

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) The manufacture of a track recording car produced by the Research, Designs and Standards Organization has been just completed. Trials and testing have not yet been done.

(b) The completely indigenous track recording car costs about Rs. 9 lakhs (approximately) and will be utilized for recording the conditions of the track.

(c) The cost of a similar imported track recording car, with indigenous bogie and chasis is approximately Rs. 8.50 lakhs. Capacity, dependability and durability of the indigenous car has still to be found out after trials.

Strike in Durgapur Steel Plant

325. SHRI GANESH GHOSH:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL:
SHRI B. K. MODAK:
SHRI BHAGABAN DAS:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers of the melting shop of the Durgapur Steel Plant went on one day token strike on the 1st June, 1968;

(b) if so, the demands of the workers; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to settle the dispute?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main demand was for increase in the number of crane operators to 180 against 168 recommended by the Industrial Engineering Department and 178 suggested by the Deputy Labour Commissioner.

(c) The dispute is pending before the Labour Commissioner, Government of West Bengal for conciliation.

Investment Board

326. SHRI GANESH GHOSH:
SHRI VISWANATHA
MENON:
SHRIMATI SUSEELA
GOPALAN:
SHRI UMANATH:
SHRI R. K. AMIN:
SHRI MEETHA LAL MEENA:
SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN:
SHRI H. AJMAL KHAN:
SHRI E. K. NAYANAR:
SHRI P. RAMAMURTI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to create an Investment Board for the processing of applications for licensing of industries with foreign capital participation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It has been decided to set up a Foreign Investment Board for the expeditious processing of cases of foreign participation in industries.

The Board will have as its Chairman a Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. Secretaries to Government in the Economic Ministries, Secretary to the Planning Commission, Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Director General of Technical Development will be the members. All cases of foreign investment and collaboration will fall within the jurisdiction of the Board.

Recession in Industrial Development

327. SHRI S. P. RAMAMOORTHY:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:
SHRI D. N. DEB:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI D. C. SHARMA:

**SHRI BENI SHANKER
SHARMA:**
**SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR
SHAH:**

Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to assess the impact of recession in industrial development in the country;

(b) if so, whether a copy of the report would be laid on the Table of the House;

(c) whether there have been any signs of industrial upturn following a prolonged period of recession in the industry since January, 1968;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to keep up the trend?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED):

(a) and (b). The progress of all industries and particularly those affected by recession, is being constantly kept under review with a view to taking such steps as may be possible, to help recovery. No formal report has, however, been prepared on the subject.

(c) to (e). As a result of the various measures taken there have been signs of improvement in various fields as evidenced by the index of industrial production which rose to 157.3 in the first quarter of 1968 as compared to 150.9 in the year 1967. The recovery has been particularly satisfactory in industries like Machine tools, Machine tools accessories, Portable tools, Furnaces, Lathe tools, Steel pipes and tubes, Steel wire ropes, Railway wagons, Heavy structures, Steel castings, C.I. spun pipes, Commercial vehicles including jeeps and cars.

Assistance to Jute Industry

328. **SHRI R. K. SINHA:** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any financial assistance to the jute industry to tide over the crisis it is facing presently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the employees have been demanding higher wages and better service conditions; and

(c) if so, whether Government have suggested to the industry to concede to the reasonable demands of the workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No, Sir. Loan assistance to the extent of Rs. 5 crores has, however, been agreed to be given to jute industry for diversification of jute goods production for exports.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) These issues are still under discussion between representatives of the Indian Jute Mills Association and of the employees.

Industrialization of Faizabad Division

329. **SHRI R. K. SINHA:** Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire Faizabad Division in Uttar Pradesh excluding Bara Banki has been classified as backward area to get preferential treatment for industrialisation; and

(b) if so, whether Government have worked out any scheme for the industrialisation of the Division?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED):

(a) It has been reported by the State