

(a) whether Government propose to set up a T.V. centre in Jhanjharpur district in North Bihar; and

(b) if so, by when and details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. There is, at present, no approved scheme to set up a T.V. transmitter in Jhanjharpur sub-division of Madhubani district of Bihar.

Cases pending in Patna High Court

309. SHRI YUVRAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the Patna High Court;

(b) whether some posts of judges are lying vacant in the Patna High Court; and

(c) if so, the time by which judges will be appointed there and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) As on 30.6.1989, 66221 cases were pending in Patna High Court.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Bihar was requested to send recommendations for filling the vacant posts of Judges in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court and the Governor. It is not possible to indicate the time by which Judges will be appointed in the Patna High Court but the consultative process has been expedited.

[English]

Appointment of Port Agent by Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited

310. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited and whether the management has reduced the number of its employees;

(b) whether the management is now planning to appoint a port agent at Calcutta rendering the employees out of service; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government to safeguard the interests of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited (SCICI) have reported that since the company has scrapped 9 old vessels and is presently operating a fleet of 13 vessels on time charter basis, the staff strength has been nationalised, 360 employees have accepted the voluntary retirement scheme offered by the Company. Thus the staff strength has recuded from 552 employees to 192 employees.

(b) and (c). Keeping in view the scale of operations at Calcutta the Company has considered various alternatives, including that of appointment of a Port Agent at Calcutta. The Board of Directors of the Company has not yet taken any specific decision.

Arrears in Supreme Court and High Courts

311. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed towards imple-