

[English]

### Karnataka-Maharashtra Boundry Dispute

2174. SHRI RAM NAIK :  
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the border areas of Karnataka and Maharashtra have not been developed due to the non-settlement of Karnataka-Maharashtra boundry dispute;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken any steps to resolve the Karnataka-Maharashtra boundry dispute by convening the meetings of the Chief Ministers of both the States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) There is nothing to suggest that the border areas of Karnataka and Maharashtra have not been developed due to non-settlement of the Karnataka-Maharashtra boundry dispute;

(b) and (c). The Government of India has, in the past, convened meetings with the concerned State Chief Ministers.

The Government of India is of the view that the dispute has to be resolved primarily by the State Governments concerned through discussions and mutual accommodation. The Government of India would be glad to render necessary assistance to the State Governments in this regard.

[Translation]

### Engines of Superfast Trains

1275. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :  
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether engines of superfast trains were imported in the past;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated a scheme to introduce some superfast trains in the future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No locos were imported in the past specifically for superfast trains. However, 10 Nos. 3-Phase drive AC electric locos have been imported in 1995 and 1996 which are suitable for high speed trains.

(c) and (d). Introduction of passenger trains including superfast services is a continuous process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility and resource availability.

### Fire Safety on Dhanbad Railway Line

2176. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether danger has arisen to the Dhanbad-Pathardih railway line connecting the Eastern Railway with South-Eastern Railway due to the Fire prevailing in the under-ground mines for some years;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have taken any action to check the fire and save the Railway line; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) M/s Bharat Cooking Coal Ltd., (BCCL) have been advised to fill up the trench near the track at Km. 11/13-14 which had been dug quite sometime back with earth/sand and to use water for restricting the spread of the fire. This work has been taken up by M/s BCCI from 9.7.96. As an additional precautionary measure the speed restriction of 20 kmph has been imposed between Lodhna-Pathardih stations. At other points M/s BCCL have already taken remedial measures of digging the trenches and filling the same with sand and earth. This has proved effective in containing the fire and there is no immediate danger to the track.

[English]

### Decontrol of Molasses Price

2177. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister for CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that alcohol based chemicals industries are incurring losses on account of decontrol of the price of molasses and alcohol;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some State Governments have introduced partial decontrol to assist the concerned industries; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b). No complaints/representation about incurring losses by Alcohol Based Chemical Industries has been received in the recent past.

(c) and (d). Some State Governments have retained control on molasses and alcohol under existing State