

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to conduct a survey to link district headquarters of Sitapur, Hardoi and Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh with railway lines; and

(d) if so, when and the steps proposed to be taken to provide rail facility in this backward area?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Manned level crossing at Kamareddy Town (A.P)

2307. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations for construction of a manned level crossing at Kamareddy town on Secunderabad-Manmad railway line in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, at what stage the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Railways can provide the said level crossing only if it is sponsored by the State Government/Local Authority duly consent-

ing to meet the initial and recurring expenditure, as per rules.

Action Against M/s Sumitomo Corporation

2308. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sumitomo Corporation which is reported to have been accused of paying Rs. 6.5 crore commission to Jyotsna Holdings to bag a substantial order from Oil and Natural Gas Commission, has been black-listed;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the findings of the enquiry made into this deal; and

(c) what further action has been taken against the firm?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). According to the legal opinion obtained by the ONGC from the then First Additional Solicitor General of India, the remuneration paid by M/s. Sumitomo Corporation to M/s. Jyotsna Holdings Ltd. is in violation of Clause 31 of the tender conditions. He had further opined that action can be taken by not giving further business of ONGC to the Consortium of Japanese Firms which functioned under the name of M/s. Sumitomo Corporation. ONGC have been instructed to take action accordingly. ONGC have also been advised to take recourse of arbitration or to file a suit for appropriate relief. ONGC have initiated action in this regard.

All Public Sector Undertakings under this Ministry have also been advised that no further business should be given to the Consortium of the Japanese firms and its constituents which functioned in the name of