

are lying vacant without Regional Commissioners?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the instructions of the Finance Ministry all transfer should be stayed for a period of one year except where the transfers are on account of promotions, expiry of deputation period, or very special personal reasons.

(c) & (d): Generally, these instructions are followed but, as in other Organisation, there is no bar to transfers in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation also if such transfers are considered essential on grounds of administrative expediency.

#### **Armed dacoities in Long Distance Trains**

**2000. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:  
SHRI HARI KISHAN SHASTRI:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of armed dacoities which have taken place in long distance trains during the last one year, month-wise;

(b) whether most of these incidents have occurred on the Eastern and South Eastern Zones;

(c) the number of dacoits arrested; and

(d) whether any new system will be devised to provide effective protection for the passengers?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF):** (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Ship Repairing Yard at Haldia**

**2001. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:  
SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:**

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made towards setting up of a ship repairing yard at Haldia, as sanctioned by the previous Government;

(b) the estimated total cost of the project and its foreign exchange component; and

(c) when it is likely to be completed?

**THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):** (a) to (c). Government have not so far approved the proposal for establishment of a ship repairing yard at Haldia. M/s. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Calcutta, had submitted a detailed project report for a shiprepair complex at Haldia for consideration. The report was examined in the Department of Defence Production in consultation with others concerned and it was considered that the viability of the project and other relative aspects should be re-examined after excluding the provision for production of off-shore platforms provided in the report and a supplementary report prepared and submitted for consideration by Government. This Supplementary Report is awaited in the Department of Defence Production.

#### **Deterioration in the Navigable Channel of the Hooghly River**

**2002. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:  
SHRI GADADHAR SAHA:**

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a marked deterioration in the navigable channel of the Hooghly river below Calcutta;