

Technical Education and as approved by the Government. Regional Engineering College, Calicut has implemented the directive of the Government issued vide letter No. F. 6-1/88 T. 5 dated 28.2.89.

### **Strike by FCI Employees**

2334. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers in some F.C.I. Godowns in Kerala are on strike;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to avert the strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c). Workers in 8 depots of Kerala have struck work at the behest of FCI Workers Union demanding direct payment by FCI despite the fact that these depots had been functioning under the labour Cooperative Society System which ensures that there is no exploitation of the workers possible under the contract labour system.

Though the FCI management had discussed their demand, they are adamant and have not abandoned the demand. Since the issue has wider ramifications, the whole matter is under consideration in the Ministry of Food. Govt./FCI management has, therefore, appealed to the Union not to precipitate the matter in the interest of the food economy of the country.

### **Bhopal-Ramganj Mandi Railway Line**

2335. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been carried out for Bhopal-Ramganj Mandi railway line; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Government are likely to give its approval?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic survey conducted in '92 for a new BG line between Bhopal and Ramganj Mandi revealed that the cost of the 262 kms line will be Rs. 249.77 crores with a negative rate of return. In view of the unremunerative nature of the line, the work could not be considered for being taken up.

### **National Transport Policy Committee**

2336. SHRI ANKUSHRAORAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the modal shares of freight traffic suggested by the National Transport Policy Committee for moving through rail and road network;

(b) the actual trends of modal share being moved by rail and road today;

(c) whether there is a decline in the share of freight traffic by Railways; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The National Transport Policy Committee in its report projected that Railways modal share of freight would be 72% by the year 2000 AD and 28% for Road network.

(b) Regular compilation of rail and road