

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (d) The Railway Reforms Committee have recommended closure of 40 uneconomic branch lines on all three gauges, where adequate road transport facility exists to meet the transport needs of the area satisfactorily and the railways are suffering losses in operating them, the amount of losses suffered during 1983-84 on these 40 lines being about Rs. 815 Lakhs. As recommended by the Committee, the State Governments concerned have been addressed requesting them either to agree for closure of these lines or share 50 per cent of the losses suffered by the railways on such of the lines as they may desire to be continued.

Vacant Post of Chairman Central Social Welfare Board

533. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Chairman of Central Social Welfare Board has not been filled up for quite sometime;

(b) if so, whether because of this situation many States including Sikkim have not received their fund timely from the Board for their welfare activities ; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking to rectify the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The post of Chairman, Central Social Welfare Board has fallen vacant with effect from 19.1.85.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, The Executive Director of the Board has been empowered by the Executive Committee of the Board to exercise financial and administrative powers of the Chairman. Funds allocated to Central Social Welfare Board during the year 1984-85 and the additional amount given to the Board at the end of the year, have been fully utilised. Sikkim and other States are receiving funds from the Board for their welfare activities. Government has already

initiated efforts to appoint Chairman of the Central Social Welfare Board.

[Translation]

Transportation of Coal and Pulses

534. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether, keeping in view the acute shortage of coal in industrial establishments and power houses in the country, the Railways propose to accord priority to the transport, of coal;

(b) if so, when priority would be given to the transport of coal; and

(c) whether, keeping in view the shortage of pulses in different parts of the country, transport of pulses would also be accorded priority ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) The transportation of coal for power houses and industrial establishments is arranged under priority 'C' of the Preferential Traffic Schedule which is a sufficiently high priority.

(c) Movement of pulses when sponsored by State Government and Food Corporation of India, has already been accorded sufficiently high priority i.e. priorities 'C' and 'D' respectively of the Preferential Traffic Schedule. Movement of non-sponsored pulses is done under priority 'E'.

[English]

Indo USSR Agreement for Thermal Power Plants

535. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement between India and the USSR for providing equipment and technical documentation for thermal power stations in the country, was recently signed;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement and the names of the thermal power stations for which necessary assistance will be provided by the USSR ;

(c) whether spare parts will be provided by the USSR or will be produced in the country to meet the requirements ;

(d) who are the signatories to the agreement, their status and names ; and

(e) the details of the thermal and hydel power stations for which USSR has given help as on 30.6.1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) and (b) A Credit Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation was signed on 22nd May, 1985 between India and the USSR. The Kahalgaon Thermal Power Project with a capacity of 840 MW is covered under this Agreement.

(c) The agreement provides for supply of spare parts for initial inventory mobilisation as may be mutually agreed upon.

(d) The signatories to the Agreement are Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, and Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR.

(e) The power projects which have been/are being, finance from Soviet Credits include :

- (i) Neyveli Thermal Power Station.
- (ii) Obra Thermal Power Station.
- (iii) Koroa Thermal Power Station.
- (iv) Bhakra Right Bank Power House.
- (v) Lower Sileru Hydro Power Station.
- (vi) Vindhyachal Thermal Power Project.

Lighthouses on the Coast of Andhra Pradesh

536. SHRI TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of lighthouses on the coast of Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to

increase the number of such lighthouses on the coastal area of Andhra Pradesh ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these lighthouses are expected to be set up particularly during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) There are 12 Lighthouses on the coast of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Training Centres for Lightkeepers

537. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a Training Centre at Calcutta to impart training to the lightkeepers ;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up more such centres in the country ;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether such a centre will be set up in Andhra Pradesh ;

(d) if so, details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal for setting up another Training Centre in Andhra Pradesh or elsewhere.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Training Centre at Calcutta is intended for training of Lightkeepers on an All India basis. As this training centre copes with the training needs for lightkeepers, no new additional centres are proposed.