

Memorandum of Understanding was signed by it with a West German based shipyard in 1985;

(b) if not, the reasons there for;

(c) whether the delay will affect the cost of the vessels; and

(d) if so, the details there of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There was a sharp appreciation in the value of Deutsche Marks, the currency in which the price of the vessels was quoted. As a result, the price of the vessels in terms of rupees went up steeply making the project unviable.

(c) and (d). The Shipping Corporation of India has not purchased container vessels in substitution of their earlier proposal and therefore it is not possible to make cost comparisons.

**Demand for Pune Ahmadabad Express via Diva Bassein Route**

2449. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'Pune Pravasi Sangh' (Pune Passengers' Association) staged a massive peaceful demonstration in Pune on 26 January, 1988 to press for the demand for Pune-Ahmedabad Express on the railway route Pune, Kalyan, Diva, Bassein and Ahmedabad;

(b) whether the Pune Pravasi Sangh has sent a memorandum to him as well as the Prime Minister drawing their attention to the demand for Pune-Ahmedabad Express; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal would involve heavy financial investment for upgrading the Diva-

Vasai Road rail link and provision of the requisite passenger amenities, which due to resource constraints, is not feasible at present.

**Railway Claims Tribunal**

2450. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways' Claims Tribunal to enquire into and determine claims against the Railway Administration has not been set up so far;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) when and where the Tribunal will be established and the number of benches it shall have and how the jurisdiction will be determined; and

(d) whether one such bench would be set up in Calcutta and if so, the infrastructure being built for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (d). The proposed Railway Claims Tribunal will have Seventeen Benches (nineteen courts) at different places including Calcutta. Efforts are being made to find suitable accommodation etc. for the establishment of the Benches at different places. The territorial jurisdiction of each Bench is yet to be finalised. Action is being taken to finalise other matters necessary for setting up the Tribunal. No definite date can be fixed for the commencement of the Tribunal till such time the infrastructure required for the purpose is completed.

**Policy for Grant of Extension or Re-Employment to Medical Officers**

2451. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any policy for guidelines have been laid down for the grant of extension of service or re-employment to Medical Officers of the Central Health Services in the super-time scale and above;