

other than those approved, results in proportionate cut in the Central Assistance.

Haj Pilgrims

1106. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Haj Pilgrims sent by Government to Saudi Arabia during the year 1988 till date;

(b) whether there is any restriction imposed by the Government of Saudi Arabia for not sending more Hajis from India; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not allowing more Hajis for Haj during the year 1988 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI) : (a) Till July 20, 1988 25,100 Haj pilgrims had reached Saudi Arabia under the arrangements made by the Central Haj Committee. Government has, however, released foreign exchange to only 23,000 pilgrims.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The constraints of foreign exchange have prevented Government from increasing the quota of 23,000.

President's Assent to Karnataka Bill

1107. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received the Karnataka Forest Produce supplies (Revision of Agreements) Bill, 1987 for President's assent;

(b) if so, when was the Bill received; and

(c) when the Bill is likely to receive President's assent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Karnataka Supply of Forest Produce by Government (Revision of Agreements) Bill,

1987 has been received on 12.1.88 for the President's assent.

(c) Certain suggestions have been made on 10.5.1988 to the State Government. It is not possible to indicate when the Bill would receive the President's assent.

Accidents due to Subotage to Railway Tracks

1108. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases in which railway tracks on various sections of the railways were found sabotaged during 1987 and since the beginning of the year 1988;

(b) the number of accidents that took place on each section of the railways as a result thereof during the above period;

(c) the loss of life and property as a consequence thereof;

(d) the measures taken by Government to strengthen the security arrangements to prevent sabotaging of railway tracks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Manufacture of Colour Picture Tubes with Foreign Collaboration

1109. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the application for manufacture of colour picture tubes in Andhra Pradesh with foreign collaboration is under the active consideration of the Union Government since a long time;

(b) if so, the likely date by which the application will be cleared; and

(c) the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNO-

LOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government has under taken a review of the Colour Picture Tube industry for deciding the policy for future creation of capacity. Decision on the case of M/s. Andhra Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation Ltd. will be taken after formulation of the said policy.

Technology for Production of Silicon Wafers

1110. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the indigenous technology for production of silicon wafers is proving expensive as compared to imported silicon wafers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the technology and to bring down the costs so that the indigenous manufacturers are in a position to compete with foreign products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) The price of indigenous silicon wafers for photovoltaic application is almost 50% higher than the CIF price of the imported wafer. As regards silicon wafers, for electronic applications these are still not commercially available in the required quality and quantity in the country. The higher cost of silicon wafers indigenously manufactured is mainly due to high energy cost, low volume of production and duty on imported consumables and raw materials.

(b) Steps taken proposed to be taken to bring down the cost include (1) ensure maximum utilisation of indigenous wafer manufacturing capacity; (2) reduction of duties on major input materials and consumables; (3) placement of educational orders on indigenous supplier of wafers for electronic applications with a view to developing indigenous capability.

Filling up of Vacant Posts in Public Sector Units

[*Translation*]

1111. SHRI RAM DHAN :

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :

SHRI H.M. PATEL :

SHRI GURDAS KAMAT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any policy has been laid down in regard to appointment of officers on top posts in the public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the detailed outlines of this policy;

(c) the number of top posts lying vacant, the period for which these have been vacant and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Public Enterprises Selection Board has made recommendations in regard to filling up of several such posts but these have been rejected;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) when these vacancies are likely to be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The policy of the Government is to appoint through a fair and objective selection procedure outstanding professional managers to any other level as may be decided by the Government from time to time. Government have also recognised the need to develop a cadre of professional managers within the public sector. Hence unless markedly better candidates are available from outside, internal candidates, employed in the public sector enterprise, will be preferred for appointment to Board level posts. If internal candidates are not available preference will be given to candi-