

Trade Treaty with Nepal

2019. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal propose to sign a new trade treaty;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to sign more treaties with Nepal to strengthen its trade relations in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). A new Treaty of Trade is being negotiated to provide a framework for increased trade between India and Nepal.

(c) There is at present no proposal for any more treaties to be signed with Nepal to strengthen trade relations.

Demand for Simplification of Procedure for Submission of Returns

2020. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the representations by the tax-payers to simplify the procedure for submission of the returns and quick disposal; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Simplifications of the tax laws and procedures is a continuing process and the Government does receive representations from time to time for the same. Some time back, suggestions were received in this regard in response to a Discussion Paper presented in the Parliament in August, '86 to elicit public opinion, in which the Government itself gave suggestions for the simplification of the procedures and measures to ensure quick disposal of assessment and collection of tax.

(b) In response to this, suggestions were received from tax-payers, Chambers of Commerce, trade associations, tax practitioners etc. Amendments have been made in the Income-tax, Wealth-tax and Gift-tax Acts, through the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987. These, *inter alia*, prescribe a simple way for assessment of income. Under the new scheme, the assesses are required to pay tax on returned income along with interest thereon, if any, at the time of filing the return. In a large majority of cases, the issue of acknowledgement slips for the returns will be the end of the matter and passing of assessment orders will not be necessary. Only in a few cases, selected for scrutiny, assessment orders will be passed after scrutiny. The new procedure would be extremely convenient to the tax payers.

[Translation]

Malpractices in Reservations at Samastipur

2021. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons convicted in connection with bungling and corruption in reservation of seats and berths at Samastipur junction and the total number of complaints received in this division during the last three years.

(b) the details of officials who conducted enquiry into this matter so far and the number of those punished in this connection;

(c) whether it is a fact that many railway officials in this division travel in the class to which they are not entitled; and

(d) whether Government propose to conduct enquiry into the matter and also take necessary corrective measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). During the last three years, two complaints about corruption and fourteen complaints regarding irregularities in rail reservations were received at Samas-

tipur Division. The enquiries in these complaints were conducted by the Senior Subordinate Officials of N.E. Railway. One person was punished departmentally as a result of the enquiries. No person was convicted.

(c) No such case has come to the notice.

(d) As and when any case will come to notice, suitable disciplinary action will be taken against the staff under relevant rules.

[English]

Attachment of Coaches in Trains between Hyderabad and Mahboob Nagar

2022. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coaches attached to the trains on meter gauge running between Hyderabad-Mahboob Nagar on South Central Railway are in a very dilapidated condition or obsolete;

(b) if so, whether the number of coaches on these trains have been decreased; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to provide the latest or more new coaches for the benefit of the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Composition of Kachiguda-Mahboob Nagar Passenger has been reduced temporarily from 8 to 6 coaches due to less passenger occupation and shortage of M.G. Coaches on Indian Railways.

(c) Number of M.G. Coaches being manufactured has been stepped up considerably.

Special Task Force to Assess Flood Damage

2023. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have set up a special task force to assess the damage to irrigation works during the recent floods in the country;

(b) if so, by when the task force will submit its report to Government;

(c) the details of the irrigation sites the Task Force will visit; and

(d) the other steps Government propose to take to get the irrigation works repaired?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d). Special Task Force was set up in respect of the States of Punjab and Haryana. After inspecting damage to irrigation works, the Task Force submitted its report on 5th November. Provisions for urgent repairs to damaged irrigation works have been indicated to the States of Punjab and Haryana, and some works have been completed already.

Opening of Accounts and Policies by Banks and LIC in Names of Children

2024. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks and Life Insurance Corporation of India refuse to open accounts or policies in the names of children when mothers sign as their 'parent' and insist on father's signature as 'parent'; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to direct them to end the discrimination against mothers in view of the constitutional provision of equality for all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Opening of an account with a bank and operation of the same involves contractual relationship between the bank and the customer. In terms of the provisions of the Indian Contract Act, a minor is not competent to contract.