

Setting up of Indo-Australian Joint Economic commission

4192. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether India and Australia have decided on major expansion of the existing trade and economic links;

(b) whether both the countries are planning to set up a joint economic commission at the ministerial level;

(c) whether there is a "significant up-grading" of development assistance for India; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Recently four Memoranda of Understanding have been signed between India and Australia to step up cooperation in Meteorology, Railway, Coal and Telecommunication Sectors. Both the countries have also agreed to set up a joint commission at the Ministerial level to review bilateral cooperation in the economic and trade fields. A memorandum of Understanding has also been signed with the Government of Australia on the 10th February, 1989, for provision of concessional loans to finance development projects in India.

(c) and (d). These steps are expected, inter alia, to facilitate the flow of development assistance for India.

[Translation]

Inter-City Train From Gandhidham to Anand and Baroda

4193. SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce an inter-city train from Gandhidham to Anand and Baroda for the students of Kutch;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

[English]

Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner

4194. SHRI V. TULSIRAM:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHEPATIL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring forward a legislation regarding the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Criticism of Functioning of Railways

4195. SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the functioning of Railways has been criticised by the Central Vigilance Commission in his recent report;

(b) if so, the points on which criticism has been made;

(c) the present number of cases recommended by the Central Vigilance Commission for action but no decisive action could be taken thereon so far;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to remove this short coming and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVARO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). The Central Vigilance Commission's Annual Report for the Calendar Year 1987 has been received only recently. Besides giving an account of the performance (work done) in the field of Vigilance, the Report gives suggestions for system/procedural improvement. The Central Vigilance Commission have not criticised the functioning of the Railways but have commented in a few cases with the intention of assisting in the field of Vigilance matters.

(c) to (e). At present there is no case on which decisive action could not be taken by this Ministry in relation to the advice tendered by Central Vigilance Commission. The Commission's advice is given utmost respect and attention and is acted upon. In case where it is proposed to deviate from the Commission's advice, the matter is referred back to them for reconsideration and appropriate action is taken in accordance with the laid down procedure.

[English]

**Constitutional Cases Pending in
Supreme Court**

4196. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be
pleased to state:

(a) the number of Constitutional cases pending in the Supreme Court and for how many years, in each case;

(b) the number of such cases pending in each High Court; and

(c) the reasons for their pendency and the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTR OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The information is contained in the Statement below.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The pendency of cases including Constitutional cases, is due to several complex factors. Various steps have been taken to reduce pendency in the courts, such as, grouping of matters regarding common questions of law, and constitutional of special benches. The judge strength of Supreme Court has been raised from 18 to 26 and of High Courts from 351 to 451 in March, 1989.

STATEMENT

*Number of Constitutional Cases pending
in the Supreme Court and their year-wise
pendency*

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Constitutional cases pending</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
1968	2
1969	—
1970	3
1971	2