

languages, familiarity with international affairs required by an officer doing economic and commercial work for effective results, it has been the policy of the Ministry to man commercial and economic wings in our missions abroad normally by Indian Foreign Service Officers who are given suitable training and experience for this purpose, and not by the deployment of outside economic experts.

(c) Commercial and Economic wings in our missions abroad undertake work connected with trade, bilateral economic and technical cooperation and report on economic and commercial developments in the country and the region concerned.

They are at present normally manned by Government servants recruited through competitive examinations conducted by the UPSC. The working of the economic and commercial wings is under constant review by Government. Periodical assessments are carried out by Foreign Service Inspectors to evaluate the performance and necessary steps taken to ensure that their objectives are being achieved.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of subways or overbridges in Tamil Nadu

10478. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has urged the centre to construct subways or overbridges at 16 such crossings which the State Government has identified; and

(b) if so, Government's decision on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) Constitutionally,

the Central Government are responsible for roads declared as National Highways. In Tamil Nadu about 15 subways or overbridges along the National Highways have been so far identified for construction in consultation with the State Authorities.

(b) Out of these 15 subways/overbridges, 8 have already been sanctioned since Fourth Plan Period. The remaining seven are planned to be included in the Sixth Plan depending on the resources available and the other priority considerations.

Fire in Karjat bound suburban train

10479. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karjat bound suburban train caught fire on 11th April, 1979 near Kalyan Station; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) On 11-4-1979 at about 14.10 hours while train No. S-9 Down Bombay VT-Karjat suburban was running between Kalyan and Withalwadi stations of the Central Railway, fire broke out in the 7th coach of the train, as a result of which, 7 persons were killed, 5 sustained grievous injuries and 18 simple injuries.

According to the provisional finding of the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety, Bombay who held a statutory inquiry into this accident, the fire was caused as a result of a highly inflammable material such as gun powder or blasting powder carried by one of the passengers in the 2nd class compartment which got ignited by contact with a lighted 'bidf' or cigarette.