

West German projects with Indian Railways in third world

5344. SHRI A. R. BADRI NARAYAN:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many West German firms have shown their interest in setting up projects with Indian Railways in the third world countries where the railways have already established markets for rolling stock and laying a network of rail lines;

(b) if so, how many German firms have offered for the same;

(c) India's reaction to their proposal;

(d) whether any agreement has been reached with these firms; and

(e) what are the countries where joint venture projects will be set up with the German firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) No.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Joint conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare

5345. SHRI A. R. BADRI NARAYAN:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have forwarded the extracts from one of the resolutions passed at the Fifth Joint Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare to the Members Parliament and also to all political leaders on the 7th December, 1978;

(b) if so, whether he has also appealed them to help the Government in achieving the object of family planning;

(c) the results achieved out of the communications; and

(d) what kind of help will be given to them to propagate the family planning in their constituencies?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI RAY): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. A letter was sent by the former Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare on 7-12-1978 enclosing an extract from one of the resolutions passed at the Fifth Joint Conference of the Central Council of Health and Central Family Welfare Council. Copies are laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4211/79].

(c) A number of letters have been received in reply. The response has been very encouraging.

(d) As indicated in the letter, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare would be only too glad to give whatever assistance the MPs, Health Ministers, and Union Ministers might like to have in this regard.

Aid to shipping industry

5346. SHRI A. R. BADRINARAYAN:

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the 'Financial Express' dated the 5th March, 1979 under the heading "Government urged to rust aid to shipping industry";

(b) if so, whether Telex messages to the Prime Minister and Minister were forwarded to help the shipping industry;

(c) if so, what kind of help has been demanded; and

(d) what steps have been taken to rush aid to shipping industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) and (b). Government have seen the news report referred to and they have also received representation from the Indian National Shipowners' Association for expediting the assistance to shipping industry during the current freight recession.

(c) and (d). The suggestions of INSA include extension of the present measures of relief to a further period upto 31 March 1981 and to include certain past efforts made by the shipping companies in rescheduling their foreign exchange loans etc. as a measure of self help in deciding the quantum of financial assistance to be granted. Efforts are being made to expedite the grant of assistance under package of reliefs already approved but assistance beyond 31 March 1979 will have to await the recommendations of the High Level Committee which is proposed to be set up by the Government.

Ratification of U.N. Covenants

5347. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 1966 United Nations Covenants defending the economic, cultural and social rights of the citizens as also their political and civil rights together with the optional protocol have not yet been ratified by India;

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

(c) when they are likely to be ratified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Government have decided to accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with certain declaration necessitated by our Constitutional and other legal provisions. Government have also decided not to accede to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights according to which State party to the Covenant recognises the competence of the Human Rights Committee set up under part IV of the Covenant to receive communications from its nationals. The instruments of ratification are in the process of being drawn up and will be deposited shortly with the UN Secretary General.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Offer of Delhi Contract Bus Association

5348. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that Delhi Contract Bus Association has offered about 1000 buses for operation under the DTC at the old rates;

(b) is it also a fact that they have also offered to ply the buses even on uneconomic routes;

(c) if yes, what action Government has taken over it;

(d) what is the shortage of buses in Delhi;

(e) what specific steps Government have taken to remove the shortage; and

(f) the number of obsolete buses which are still plying in Delhi?