

Long Distance Trains

143. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DAN-DAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to stop the long-distance trains at every station; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Lockout in Kesoram Cotton Mills Ltd., Calcutta

144. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of Kesoram Cotton Mills, Ltd., Calcutta, a Birla concern, has declared a lockout throwing about ten thousand workers out of employment;

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

(c) what steps if any, are being taken by Government to settle the disputes amicably to the satisfaction of the workers and get the lockout lifted?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) to (c). In so far as industrial relations in the Kesoram Cotton Mills Ltd., Calcutta are concerned, the matter falls in the State Sphere and comes within the jurisdiction of the Government of West Bengal which is the appropriate Government in this respect, under the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Campaign against Calcutta Port

145. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in Hindustan Times of the 17th January, 1980 that the Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust accused the Shipping Corporation of India of waging a vilification campaign against Calcutta Port; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). Yes. Enquiries were made from the Chairman, Calcutta Port Trust in regard to this matter. He has said that his remarks at one of the periodic press conference had not appeared in the newspapers in correct perspective. The Chairman has explained that his emphasis at the press conference was to highlight the fact that low productivity and various work stoppages tended to frighten away the ships and the shippers and therefore, it was necessary for all concerned in Calcutta Port to try their level best to improve productivity.

With a view to improve Calcutta Port's working and to enable it to handle increased quantity of cargo according to its capacity, the Government had shared with the Chairman that the S.C.I. had slowed down temporarily their services to Calcutta in view of situation there and had requested the Chairman to improve the conditions so that the port should be utilised to its full capacity. Besides, the S.C.I. were advised from time to time to continue to provide sailings to Calcutta.