

Talks held with British Foreign Secretary

146. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that British Foreign Secretary visited India in the 2nd Week of January, 1980 and had discussion on various issues;

(b) if so, whether issue of Afghanistan and Soviet threat to Pakistan was also discussed; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir, Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, visited India from 16 to 18 January, 1980 and had discussions with us on a number of issues including Afghanistan and the induction of arms into Pakistan. While there was agreement that the danger to peace and stability in this region had increased, there were differences in perception between the two sides. No agreed solutions were proposed.

Trains Suspended due to shortage of Coal, Diesel and Electricity

147. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of trains which were suspended for shortage of coal, diesel or electricity during the past three years 1977 to 1979, alongwith the dates on which they were suspended;

(b) whether some of them have since been restored;

(c) if so, the names of such as have been restored alongwith the dates on which they were resorted;

(d) the likely date by which the remaining trains would be restored; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure that such suspension can be avoided in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d). The number of trains which stood cancelled on account of shortage of loco coal was 183 pairs on 31st July, 1978, By April 1979 the position improved to some extent enabling the Railways to restore some of the trains and the number of cancelled trains stood at 116.5 pairs. This rose to 255 pairs by the end of September, 1979 due to deterioration in the supply of loco coal. However, with improvement in the availability of loco coal the figure has now come down to 120 pairs as on 27-1-1980.

The information about details of such trains cancelled/restored from time to time over the last three years is not readily available being voluminous in character.

(e) All possible efforts are being made to improve the coal supply position in consultation with the coal producing authorities and the Department of Coal.

Chinese Arms Aid to Pakistan

148. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lodged any protest against the reported move of China to give arms to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the date on which the Chinese move first came to the notice of Government; and

(c) the date on which the protest was lodged, the nature of the protest and the response, if any from China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c). Ever since the midsixties the Chinese have been assisting Pakistan in the military and economic fields and Government of India's opposition to the supply of arms to Pakistan is well known to the Chinese. Seeing Press reports that in the light of recent developments, Chinese Government was contemplating increased military assistance to Pakistan, the Chinese Charge d'Affaires was requested on 2-1-80 to convey to his Government our concern and conviction that such actions would only heighten tension in the region while contributing to a slowing down of the process of normalisation of relations between India and Pakistan. The response of the Chinese Government is that their assistance to Pakistan was not directed against India and they hope that India-Pakistan and India-China relations would improve.

New Railway Station near Guler at Lumsu

149. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open a new Railway Station on the Kangra Valley Railway in the Northern Railway, near Guler at Lumsu;

(b) if so, the likely date by which the station would be opened; and

(c) the estimated cost of the construction of the Railway station?

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

(a) No.

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

Overbridge at Level Crossing in Rayagada

150. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had got any proposal in the past to construct an overbridge at Railway level crossing in Rayagada town, South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government of Orissa and his Ministry in this regard; and

(c) whether there is any proposal with his Ministry to include the said bridge in the current financial year?

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

(a) and (b). Construction of road over/under-bridges has to be jointly financed and executed by the Railway and the State Government (Road Authority). Though a proposal for the construction of a road over-bridge in replacement of existing level crossing near Rayagada town, was considered in the past by the Railway, the same could not be included in the Works Programme, as the State Government could not provide for matching funds in their budget. Hence, the work could not be taken up.

(c) No.

Vacant Railway Land in Rayagada

151. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway land lying vacant in Rayagada town (S.E. Railway) have been kept reserved for the use of Railways;

(b) how many acres of land given on lease to the public and Government of Orissa, so far;