

needs. The capacity of the pump and the size of the pipeline to feed the overhead tank for locos, has been increased.

(2) Three diesel generating sets have been commissioned to reduce the effects of power shortage.

(3) A temporary weir has been constructed across Damodar river and 3 pumps installed there for pumping water. Two additional tube-wells have been commissioned on the river side.

(4) A new tube well will be commissioned in workshop complex area. Another one is being commissioned in Durgapur steel exchange yard area. A pipeline is also proposed to be laid from the workshop complex area to the Traffic Colony.

Memo from Shunting Cabin and Traffic Staff Association of Asansol

525. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum or charter of demands from the All India Shunting Cabin and Traffic Staff Association of Asansol, Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the salient points thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government thereon?

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

(a) Yes.

(b) The Memorandum contains a number of demands which include

(i) Improvement in the avenue of promotion;

(ii) Revision of pay scales;

(iii) Payment of Hard Duty Allowance.

(c) In accordance with Government's policy, staff representations

received from any source are given due consideration and action as considered necessary is taken. The demands contained in the memorandum submitted by the All India Shunting Cabin and Traffic Staff Association of Asansol have been dealt with within the framework of this policy.

Bungling of Relief Material during Bangladesh Operation

526. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vigilance Commission appointed to probe into the alleged bungling of relief material by Indian Red Cross during the Bangladesh operation of 1971-72 has found irregularities worth several crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the said report; and

(c) what action is being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) No Vigilance Commission was appointed by the Government of India.

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

Situation in Afghanistan

527. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:

SHRI HARINATH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the latest assessment of the situation in Afghanistan and the Government's position in relation thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): The situation in Afghanistan has been, and continues to be, a matter of concern to the Government of India.

The government has had useful consultations with a number of countries

with a view to finding ways and means of defusing the tensions in the region and for moving towards the creation of conditions that would facilitate the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Our consultations, we believe, have led to a better understanding of the issues involved. Against this backdrop, and considering the several proposals that have been put forward, we believe that there is a deep desire amongst the parties concerned to find a peaceful solution. It is our earnest hope that all countries concerned will work towards speedily formulating the contents of such a solution.

Foreign Secretary's visit to Afghanistan

528. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Secretary flew to Kabul on the 16th May, 1980 to meet the Afghan Government Ministers and officials for discussions over the proposal for withdrawal of Russian troops;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussions; and

(c) at what stage the matter stands now?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The Foreign Secretary visited Kabul from 16th to 19th May, 1980. He met the Afghan Government leadership and discussed the situation in the region and bilateral matters. He also sought from the Afghan leadership elucidation of proposals put forward by the Afghan Government on May 14, 1980 that constituted the Afghan blueprint for a political solution to the situation in the region and which *inter alia* established a link between direct bilateral Afghan-Pak and Afghan-Iran negotiations with guarantees and withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

(b) The Afghan leadership explained their proposals in detail and indicated

that they were awaiting responses from the Government of Pakistan and Iran.

(c) There has been no response from Iran or Pakistan to the Afghan proposals. On the other hand, in accordance with a decision of the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference, a 3-member committee of which Pakistan and Iran are members has been set up to seek a comprehensive solution. It is yet to be seen how the Islamic initiative fares.

Distribution of Maps by Pakistan at Salisbury showing Junagadh as part of Pakistan

529. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at Salisbury Pakistan distributed maps showing Junagadh as part of Pakistan during the visit of President Zia-ul-Haq there;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up this matter with the Pakistan Government; and

(c) the reaction of that Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The President of Pakistan presented a book entitled "Land and people of Pakistan", which *inter alia*, contained a map depicting Junagadh as a part of Pakistan to the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. It is believed that copies of the book were also presented to other dignitaries.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There has been no reaction from the government of Pakistan.

Man-days lost and Workers affected due to Lay Off and Closures

530. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the number of man-days lost and the number of workers affected