

seen a report published in a Bangladesh weekly 'Khabor' to the effect that the four year old plan for a Bangladesh-Pakistan Confederation has been revived and its strategies were discussed during Pakistan President Zia-ul-Haq's recent visit to Peking.

Traction Motors

2100. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUHDURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of traction motors needed for a rake;

(b) whether it is maintained for all the rakes; and

(c) if not, why?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The 8-coach, Electrical Multiple Unit rakes have 8 traction motors. The 9-coach rakes have 12 traction motors. Some old imported 9-coach rakes have 16 traction motors.

(b) Yes. If any motor develops fault on run, arrangements exist to replace the same in maintenance sheds.

(c) Does not arise.

Appointment of Committee by Sri Lanka Government

2101. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri Lanka Government have appointed a Three-Member Committee to go into the problems of 5-lakh people of Indian origin now treated as stateless;

(b) whether Government of India have represented to Sri Lanka Government the situation on this problem in the background of Shastri-Shrimao Pact of 1964; and

(c) what other steps are being taken to resolve the differences on the question of stateless Indians in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The problem of stateless persons of Indian origin in Sri Lanka continues to be a subject of discussion between the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka.

Number of Indians in Iran

2102. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state how many (i) Indian Officials (ii) Indian Nationals, and (iii) Indian Labour are in Iran as at present?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): The number of Indian officials in Iran is 64. The number of their dependents is about 110. There are about 2500 medical and para-medical personnel and engineers. The number of labourers is 315. The total number of Indian nationals in Iran is about 4500.

Manufacture of Double-Decker Coaches

2103. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stopped manufacture of Double-Decker coaches for this year;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government are planning to remove some of the defects pointed out in the opinion poll on Double-deckers taken by the Central Railway in April, 1980; and

(d) what in general is the policy of Government in the production of more Double-deckers on the Main lines?