

(c) whether the backwardness of the state and exploitation of mineral/forest resources to backward areas with heavy tribal concentration will be kept in view while considering the survey report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). The survey report and estimate is under compilation and is expected to be received shortly. A decision will be taken after the survey report is received and examined in all its aspects including the financial viability and availability of funds.

Conversion of Martin Railway Line

2107. PROF. RUPCHAND PAL. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Martin Railway line (now abolished) is being turned into a broad gauge line; and

(b) if so, the progress already made in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Only Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway Company of the Martins' Group ceased its operation in February, 1978 when the Company went into voluntary liquidation. A preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey for a BG line formerly served by the Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway (165 kms.) has been included in the budget for 1980-81 at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 lakhs with an initial outlay of Rs. 1 lakh.

Expert Committee for Unemployment of Seamen

2108. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up an expert committee to go into the

question of unemployment of Indian Seamen;

(b) if so, whether any proposal in this regard has been received from the National Union of Seafarers of India; and

(c) if so, when the committee is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The views of the National Union of Seafarers of India have also been taken into consideration.

(c) The committee is likely to be set up shortly.

Amendment to Industrial Disputes Act

2109. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a proposal of the Government of West Bengal for amending the Industrial Disputes Act (which is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution) as applied to this State; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Government has not yet formulated its views on the amendments as the State Government has not yet come up with a Bill on the Subject.

Sino-India Trade Relations

2110. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to take steps to resume