

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the officers in the said Passport Office?

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

(b) The matter has been investigated and the mistakes seem to have occurred due to rush of work. Necessary measures have been taken to ensure that such mistakes do not occur in future.

#### **Railway Engines on Latur-Miraj Line**

3363. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kurd-uwadi-Miraj Mail (Central Railway) was stopped on 2nd August, 1980 between Bohli and Bamni Stations (Maharashtra) due to engine fault for hours;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the railway engines running on Latur-Miraj (Meter Gauge) line are too old to run smoothly and that spare parts of the same are not available; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken for repairing those engines or for the replacement of them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) Yes, for 4 hours 55 minutes.

(b) and (c). Latur-Miraj is a narrow gauge line. As 22 locomotives working on this section are overaged and require heavy inputs of maintenance for providing spares, Railway Administration has already taken a

decision to replace them with diesel locomotives progressively which have already been programmed for manufacture at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works. Meanwhile, all efforts are being made to see that existing locomotives are maintained properly to provide reliable service.

#### **Posts of Welfare Inspectors**

3364. SHRI T. M. SAWANT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether promotions were made to the posts of Welfare Inspectors in the grade of Rs. 550-750 and 700-900 during May, 1980 on the Northern Railway;

(b) if so, the number of promotions made in each grade;

(c) whether 40-point roster was consulted while ordering promotions;

(d) the number of carry forward vacancies at their time of promotion relating to Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes grade-wise over Northern Railway and how many vacancies were mature for exchange between Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes grade-wise;

(e) the number of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes employees promoted grade-wise during May, 1980; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) to (f). The information is being collected from the Zonal Railway and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.