

sals to the respective governments for approval. Numerous programmes have been implemented since the Joint Commission started functioning. The more important are listed below.

Under the Sub-Commission on Economic and Commercial Affairs, discussions have been held on matters related to bilateral trade, development policies, and Indo-US Joint logy, double taxation treaty, multi-lateral economic issues, Indian investment policies, and Indo-US Joint Ventures, which have proved useful to both sides. The US is India's biggest trading partner. Through this Sub-Commission we have been able to draw the attention of the U.S. authorities to certain major issues having a bearing on our exports such as improvements in the US GSP Scheme, liberalised quotas for certain items and the need for a liberal US import policy towards the developing world. A Joint Indo-US Business Council composed of representatives of American and Indian Companies has been set up under the aegis of this Sub-Commission in order to provide a regular channel for discussion of bilateral commercial, industrial and investment matters.

The Sub-Commission on Education and Culture has instituted an Indo-US Fellowship Programme under which around 15 scholars are exchanged every year. There is also a programme for the exchange of five short-time visitors. The Sub-Commission organises two major seminars annually on subjects of mutual interest. Some of the other major programmes initiated by this Sub-Commission are regular exhibitions in India and the U.S.; exchange of museum personnel; exchange of major exhibits of Indian art and American modern art; exchange of individuals and groups in the performing and literary arts; and a films exchange programme.

The Sub-Commission on Science and Technology has promoted coope-

orative research projects, *inter alia*, in the following fields:

Agriculture and Water Resources; Environment and Natural Resources, Health; Meteorology, Materials and Electronics. Informational Science Wild Life and Habitats; Solar Activity related to Weather Phenomena; Oceanography; and Small Industrial Technology.

With this Sub-Commission's efforts a memorandum of understanding was signed between India and the United States in 1978 as a result of which India will receive directly remote sensing data from NASA's Landsat Satellite, which will be of help in providing information regarding India's natural resources.

The Sub-Commission on Agriculture, which was set up last year, has also recently held its first meeting and has drawn up proposals for Indo-US Cooperation in this field.

Joint Commissions are intended to promote mutually advantageous programmes. In the formulation of programmes, the Government of India always keep in mind the objective of furthering our efforts at self-reliance and improving the socio-economic conditions of our people.

Loss suffered due to Sabotage

3461. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI S. A. DORAI SEBASTIAN:
SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI P. M. SYEED:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the loss suffered as a result of wide spread sabotage and destruction of railway property by the farmers in the Nasik Division of Central Railway;

(b) whether Government have considered the feasibility of imposing some collective levy as a token reimbursement for the loss; and

(c) whether the agitators have declared that their proposal to launch a guerrilla war and if so, what precautions are proposed to save railway track and property?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes. Loss to the extent of approximately Rs. 5,37,00/- has so far been assessed to have been suffered by Central Railway due to the farmers' agitation.

(b) This is for the State Government of Maharashtra to decide.

(c) No declaration of launching a guerrilla war by the agitators has come to the notice of the Railway Administration.

However, preventive measures like patrolling of track, posting of fixed pickets at important installations and strategic points by Police and RPF are being taken.

Strike Notice of Cochin Port Staff Association

3462. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin Port Staff Association served a strike notice on the Cochin Port Trust recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether they have made any demand to implement the items already agreed earlier; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir on 5-11-1980.

(b) To press a charter of 30 demands.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As a result of conciliation proceedings, the union agreed to desist from the threat of strike. Port Trust has already implemented a few of the agreed items. In respect of other agreed items, action will be taken by the Port Trust to hold bilateral discussions to expedite implementation, after the dispute regarding the modality of discussions of such demands is settled. Port Trust is awaiting advice of Regional Labour Commissioner, Madras in this regard.

Porterage Staff of Cochin Port

3463. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the porterage staff of the Cochin Port went on strike for 29 days;

(b) whether any agreement has been reached with striking unions;

(c) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(d) how far it is being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir from 15-6-1980 to 13-7 1980.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details of the agreement are contained in the attached statement.

(d) Item 2 of the agreement was subject to Government's approval. The matter was examined by Government and it was decided that the approval could not be accorded in view, *inter alia*, of repercussions not only on other categories of workers at Cochin Port but also in other Major Ports. As regards item 3 of the agreement, Port Administration has not yet implemented it as it felt that