

Chinese side in these interviews to improve bilateral relations between the two countries. As is well known, India has always been committed to the normalization of India-China relations on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence and consistent with our national interests and has taken several steps in conformity with this desire.

Eklashmi Alubari Line

4427. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a proposal for providing Railway line for a shorter route from Eklashmi in the Malda district to Alubari in West Dinajpur District both in the State of West Bengal which may reduce the existing distance from Delhi or Calcutta atleast by 100 kilometre and render a valuable service to the millions of rural population in this backward area and serve the common interest of the people of North Bengal, Sikkim, Assam and other North Eastern States; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the proposal for its immediate implementation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Digha-Tamluk Station Line

4428. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the survey work made after 7th August, 1960 for linking of Digha with Tamluk Station via Contai in West Bengal; and

(b) the steps taken to expedite the said work?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Field work has been completed and the recess work for preparation of plans and estimate has been taken up. Survey report is expected to be received shortly.

Stranded Indians in Libya

4429. Shri C. D. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 100 Indian nationals, working with Construction Building Co., Jaghboob Site P.O. Box 204 (Tobruk) Libya are stranded there due to fraud of the said Company and they have requested to the Indian Embassy to make necessary arrangements for their return journey to India; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). About 100 Indian nationals working with Construction Building Co., in Libya have approached the Embassy with complaints that the Company had not paid their dues and was not taking action to repatriate the workers even after the expiry of the contract period. The workers have requested the Embassy to arrange their repatriation with all payments and benefits due from the Company. The workers have also represented to the Libyan Labour Office and the matter is under examination of the local Civil Courts. The Indian Embassy in Tripoli has also taken the matter up with the Foreign Liaison Bureau of the Government of Libya.