

going to Dargah-Shariff could avail the railway facilities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). A survey was carried out in 1955 for constructing a railway line from Ajmer to Kota via Nasirabad and the report revealed that the project would not be a viable one. However, no survey has been undertaken to connect Nasirabad with Todarai Singh which is already linked to Jaipur by a metre gauge line.

#### **Reservation of seats in K.K. Express**

1413. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is considerable difficulty to get reservation of seats for passengers from Bangalore to Delhi and Bombay, particularly in the K. K. Express and Mahalakshmi Express; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to give relief to the travelling public?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, some difficulties are generally experienced.

(b) Number of coaches in 125/126 K.K. Express are proposed to be augmented by double-heading, sometime in early 1981, after improved couplings to locomotives and coaches have been developed and tested. The load of Broad gauge Mahalakshmi express has been augmented by one bogie from 1-11-80 between Kolhapur and Pune. Further augmentation of loads of both B.G. and M.G. trains will be considered when adequate resources become available.

#### **New Restrictions by Kuwait Government**

1414. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the new restrictions of the Kuwait Government not to permit any person earning with less than about Rs. 1,000 per month to keep his family at Kuwait;

(b) if so, the total number of families likely to be affected by this restriction; and

(c) the steps taken by the Indian Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The Government of Kuwait, in April 1980, issued a regulation barring stay in Kuwait of immigrants' families with a monthly income of less than KD 400 (approximately Rs. 12,000/-). The regulation applies uniformly to all foreigners and is not directed against our particular nationality. One of the reasons which prompted the Kuwaiti authorities to take this step is the acute shortage of housing accommodation and consequent exorbitant rents. A worker earning less than KD 400 cannot afford proper accommodation for his family.

(b) This regulation is likely to affect a majority of the Indian community in Kuwait estimated at 80,000.

(c) While it is the sovereign right of any State to promulgate rules/regulations, the Indian Embassy in Kuwait have requested the Government of Kuwait that this regulation be made applicable to the families of those entering Kuwait after the promulgation of this regulation.

#### **Memorandum from All India Railway Employees Confederation**

1415. SHRI A.K. ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Railway Employees' Confederation and Purba Railway Engineering Kamgarh Union (Cons.) Dhanbad have submitted several memorandum/representations regarding the long standing grievances of Construction staff to the Chief Engineer (Cons.) Eastern Railway Calcutta;

(b) if so, what are the grievances of these staff and the action taken by Railway Administration to resolve them; and

(c) the policy and programmes of Government for absorption of these Project labourers working since ten years or more in regular services?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The grievances generally relate to improvements in service conditions of casual labour. Its Government's policy to mitigate the grievances. Further, casual labour is considered for absorption