

Inter-Sectional Transfers

2383. SHRI MOTILAL HASDA:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Railways in their letter Nos. E(NG) II-71/TR-19 of 4th August 1971, E(NG)II-74/TR-20 of 13th January 1975 and E(NG)II-75/TR-10 of 4th May 1975 assured that all Clerks in Personnel and non-personnel Branch in Headquarters and Divisional Offices on Southern Railway will be given inter-sectional transfers every five years for maintaining efficiency and to eradicate malpractices and corruption;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the cadre Clerks in Signal & Telecommunication and Mechanical Branches in Personnel Branch, Madras Division; in CSI/E/Madras Egmore (Non-personnel Branch) and DSTE/W/Tambaram (Senior Clerk-Personnel Branch) on Southern Railway are kept in the same section even after five years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS & IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). No personnel Branch Clerk dealing with Signal & Telecommunication and Mechanical Branches in Madras Division including the office of the District Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Works/Tambaram is in the same section for more than five years. However, one non-personnel Branch Clerk dealing with establishment matters is continuing for more than five years in the office of Chief Signal Inspector, Madras Egmore due to non-availability of suitable non-personnel Branch staff to deal with staff matters in the above office. Southern Railway Administration has been asked to replace him immediately. No fraud or malpractice has, however, been reported.

Visit of Special Envoys of Prime Minister to OPEC Countries

2384. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Special Envoys of the Prime Minister visited different OPEC countries during the last six months; and

(b) the results of the efforts of the Special Envoys in regard to guaranteed availability of oil supply at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) & (b). Yes, Sir. Special Envoys of the Prime Minister visited a number of OPEC countries recently including Iraq, UAE, Venezuela, Indonesia, Nigeria, Iran and Saudi Arabia. The main purpose was to explain India's position regarding a proposed classification of oil importing developing countries in three categories for purposes of financial relief to them being considered by OPEC. The question of security of supplies and matters of bilateral interest were also discussed. There has consequently been a much greater understanding and appreciation of India's point of view. Unfortunately, however, as a result of the Iran-Iraq hostilities, the OPEC has not been able to finalise its own proposals and measures designed to alleviate the problems of oil importing developing countries.

Influx of Afghan Refugees

2385. SHRI B. D. SINGH:

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the influx of Afghan refugees continues and that a large number of Persons have arrived in India during the past few months;

(b) if so, the number of Afghan refugees in India till date; and

(c) the policy, if any, formulated by the Government to deal with these refugees? -

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) & (b). Afghan nationals as before have continued to visit India on their valid travel documents. Govern-