

Rewa-Satna line

3223. SHRI MARTAND SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by what time a rail line connecting Rewa, Singrauli and other places of former Vindhya Pradesh with Satna in Madhya Pradesh will be opened?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): The Survey for the new line from Lalitpur to Singrauli is still in progress. A decision on the construction of this line can be taken only when the survey report is received and examined. No date, therefore, for construction of this line can be given.

Retired Railway Employees Association

3224. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a memorandum from the Retired Railway Employees' Association has been received this year;
- (b) if so, important points in the memorandum; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) The following demands have been made by the Association:—

- (i) Extension of present modified pension rules and other facilities sanctioned after 1-4-79 to all Railway employees who have retired prior to 1-4-79.

- (ii) Grant of relief to all Railway pensioners at par with equivalent rate of Dearness Allowance paid to serving employees.
- (iii) Restoration of commuted value of pension after survival of ten years of life of pensioners.
- (iv) Employment to the children of retired Railway employees according to requisite qualification.
- (v) Grant of ex-gratia to all retired Railway non-pensionable employees.

(c) The position briefly is:—

(i) to (iii): In regard to pensionary benefits, relief on pension and commutation of pension, the Ministry of Railways adopt the rules/orders of the Ministry of Home Affairs/Finance. In all these matters, therefore, rules/orders of the said Ministries have been adopted for application to Railway employees. As regards the demand to give retrospective effect to the pension slab-system so as to cover the employees who retired prior to 31-3-79, it was referred to the Ministry of Finance, but it has not been agreed to by them.

(iv) Giving preference to the children of retired Railway employees is not in keeping with the extent policy of the Government and will contravene the Constitutional requirements.

(v) The demand for giving some adhoc relief to non-pensionable retired Railway employees is under examination of the Government.

Details of persons of Indian Origin appointed as Consular Representatives to India

3226. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of persons of Indian Origin who have been appointed