

Proposed construction of new Railway Line from Koraput to Rayagada by NALCO

8566. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the BALCO now converted into NALCO has agreed to bear the position of the cost of construction of new railway line from Koraput to Rayagada via bauxite deposits;

(b) if so, the funds agreed therefor and the initiative taken by his Ministry for early execution of the proposed railway line;

(c) whether the Ministry of Railways has communicated to his Ministry in regard to the proposed rail-link; and

(d) if so, the indication and information given by the Railway for execution of the line in the year 1981-82?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). A provision of Rs. 100 crores has been made in the Sixth Five Year Plan for the construction of the new railway line from Koraput to Rayagada. A traffic-cum-engineering survey report has been prepared and is under examination. Construction work would start after an investment decision is taken on the project.

Allotment of Funds to T.F.A.I.

8567. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Trade Fair Authority of India is ignoring all the aims and objects for which it was constituted;

(b) whether Government are also aware that funds allotted to the

Authority are being diverted for other purposes; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN):

(a) and (b). As far as Government are aware the Trade Fair Authority of India is neither ignoring the aims and objects for which it was constituted, nor the funds allotted to the Authority are being diverted for other purposes.

(c) Does not arise.

Introduction of new classification in Match Industry

8568. SHRI N. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently introduced a new classification in match industry viz. mechanised small scale sector;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that hardly 2000 gross per day being manufactured by mechanical means out of a total handmade match production of 2.5 lakhs gross per day and even the microscopic quantity of 2000 gross consists of Wax Matches which is a sophisticated item;

(c) whether Government are also aware that WIMCO the large scale mechanised unit has failed in the manufacture of Wax Matches; and

(d) if so, what other purpose does the new classification serve except to discourage progress in the Small Scale Sector-III?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) As part of the 1981 Budget proposals, a new rate of excise duty of Rs. 5.50 per gross boxes has been introduced for matches in or in relation to the

manufacture of which power is used in any of the specified processes, and where the investment on plant and machinery in the factory of production does not exceed Rs. 20 lakhs.

(b) Information regarding the production of wax matches manufactured by mechanical means in the handmade sector, is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Government has no such information about WIMCO.

(d) The new rate of excise duty which lies intermediate between the rate of Rs. 7.20 per gross boxes applicable to the fully mechanised sector, and Rs. 4.50 per gross boxes applicable to the 'non-mechanised' middle sector of the match industry is not a revenue measure but only seeks to protect, through the excise mechanism, the employment potential of the non-mechanised sector. Government feel that it is necessary to discourage any tendency on the part of the non-mechanised sector units to mechanise certain labour intensive processes.

Recruitment of Probationary Officers in Syndicate Bank and Canara Bank

8569. SHRI JAIPAL SINGH KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many candidates qualified for written test and final interview on the basis of test held in July, 1980 conducted by Banking Service Recruitment Board, Bangalore for the recruitment of Probationary Officers in Syndicate Bank and Canara Bank;

(b) what is the figure of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes among them;

(c) what is the figures of backlog maintained by Syndicate Bank in its all cadres of services;

(d) what efforts the bank is making for clearing this backlog; and

(e) what is the latest staff position (Cadre-wise) in Syndicate Bank, showing the figure of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). The Banking Service Recruitment Board (BSRB), Bangalore has reported that all the 43,920 candidates including 6,394 belonging to Scheduled Castes and 1,288 belonging to Scheduled Tribes who had applied with the requisite fee were called for the written test conducted on 20th July, 1980. Of these, 751 candidates including 151 belonging to Scheduled Castes and 96 belonging to Scheduled Tribes qualified for interview on the basis of their performance in the written test.

(c) According to the information furnished by Syndicate Bank, the back-log of reserved vacancies in the various cadres of the bank, as on 31-3-81, was as follows:—

	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
Officers	72	105
Clerks	340	347
Sub-Staff	3	37

(d) Recruitment in the officers' and clerical cadres of nationalised banks is made through Banking Service Recruitment Boards. Special efforts are being made by the Government and the Banking Service Recruitment Boards to ensure that the backlog is wiped out as early as possible. These efforts include, *inter alia* holding of special tests exclusively for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates and making pre-recruitment training arrangements with the help of the State Governments.