

Staff Strength of Passport Office, Kerala

1431. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the staff strength of the Passport Office in Kerala has been reduced by 20 per cent since January this year; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The staff strength of the various passport offices in Kerala was reduced by about 20 per cent with effect from 1 January, 1981.

(b) This was by way of implementation of the recommendations of the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance regarding the staff strength in the Passport Offices.

Indo-Soviet Joint Committee

1432. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission had discussions on concrete measures to follow up the agreement signed last year during President Brezhnev's visit; and

(b) if so, the broad features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) The Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics identifies projects for economic cooperation in the fields of energy, ferrous metallurgy and irrigation and spells out the financial parameters. Relevant extracts from the Press Note issued on January 23, 1981, relating to discussions at the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission on concrete measures to implement this Agreement,

are laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1962/81].

Law about road accidents

1433. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item 'Present law inadequate to curb road accidents' appearing in Times of India dated 12th November, 1980;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government have a proposal to make comprehensive law to deal with road accidents and relief to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c). The causative factor of the road accidents has often been the human failure. While the existing provisions have been considered adequate to meet the situation, inclusion of additional provisions in the Motor Vehicles Act calculated to enable prevention of accidents are under examination. Similarly amendments to the provisions in regard to relief and compensation are also under consideration.

रेल प्रशासन और लोको रनिंग स्टाफ के बीच हुआ समझौता

1434. श्री रामाधरार शास्त्री : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेल प्रशासन और ग्राल इंडिया लोको रनिंग स्टाफ, एसोशिएशन के बीच 24 मार्च, 1979 को कोई समझौता हुआ था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी व्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि उक्त समझौता पूरी तरह क्रियान्वित नहीं किया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो समझौते के उल्लंघन के क्या कारण हैं और सरकार को इसे कब तक क्रियान्वित करने का विचार है ?

रेल मंत्रालय तथा रासंदीय कार्य विभाग में उप मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) स (घ). श्री इंडिया लोको रनिंग स्टाफ एसोसिएशन के साथ कोई करार नहीं किया गया है। इस संगठन के साथ वार्ता-चीत के परिणामस्वरूप मार्च, 1979 में कुछ निर्णय लिए गए थे कि कुछ विशेष मुद्दों श्री जिलायनों की जांच बाद में की जाएगी। रनिंग भत्ते के बारे में विचार करने के लिए गठन की गई एक समिति को लोको रनिंग कर्मचारियों का पक्ष प्रस्तुत करने के लिए एक शिकायत समिति का भी गठन किया गया था।

जब सरकार ने विचार विमर्श में नये किये गये कुछ मुद्दों पर कदम उठाने की बात सांची तो लोको रनिंग कर्मचारियों के एक भाग ने इस नीचे मान्यता प्राप्त एसोसिएशन के तत्वावधान में रेल संचालन को ठहर करने के लिए हान ही में अवांछनीय आंदोलन छेड़ दिया। इस सम्बन्ध में हथाले के लिए 17-2-81 को लोक सभ में रेल मंत्री द्वारा दिया गया स्वप्रेरित ब्यान देखा जा सकता है। चूँकि एसोसिएशन ने आंदोलनात्मक तरीका आनाने का निश्चय किया है, इस लिए संगठन के साथ जो पहले समझौता हुआ था आगे नहीं चल सका क्योंकि इन्होंने असहयोगपूर्ण रुढ़ उपनाया था।

Cuttack Bhubaneswar Highway

1435. SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have taken any decision regarding the

widening of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Highway to four lanes in 1980-85 Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that the officers of the department have visited the spot and have submitted a report in this regard; and

(c) when the final decision will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). Orissa Government has been wanting the Government of India to take up four-laning of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Section of N.H.5. Due to financial constraints, this project could not be included in 1978-83 Plan. However this work is being considered, along with other works, for inclusion in the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) currently under finalisation. In this context, an officer from the Ministry had also visited the site and the State P.W.D. has been asked to furnish additional information/clarifications on certain points. Final decision about the extent to which this project can be taken up in the Sixth Plan will depend on the availability of overall resources and other priorities.

Conversion of M.G. lines during 1980-81

1436. SHRI K. T. KOSAIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the Zone-wise and Division-wise sanction of conversion of M.G. lines into B.G. lines during 1980-81;

(b) the Zone-wise and Division-wise sanction of new MG/BG lines during 1980-81; and

(c) whether the execution has started in all such sanctioned new lines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Booking of expenditure and Railways accounts are maintained Railway-wise and project-