

Government steps to Curb Indiscipline among Railway Staff

1584. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:
 SHRI R. L. BHATIA:
 SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:
 SHRI P. M. SAYEED:
 SHRI AMAR
 ROYPRADHAN:
 SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:
 SHRI DAULAT RAM
 SHARN:
 SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP
 SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a majority of locomen took mass sick leave on 30th January, 1981 responding to a call given by their Union in protest against the dismissal of some locomen of the S.E. Railway, Bilaspur Division;

(b) whether in West Bengal some elements, reportedly intimidated the Railway staff on duty and obstructed them from attending to work;

(c) whether in the first week of February, the Locomen's agitation was strengthened resulting in cancellation of some trains and dislocation of traffic;

(d) if so, what were the demands put forth by the locomen and their financial implications;

(e) the estimated loss caused to the railways on this in form of freight—both passengers and goods; and

(f) the steps which Government propose to take to prevent such acts of indiscipline on the part of the Loco and other Railway Staff from holding the entire community to ransom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) to (d) and (f).

The position has been explained in the Suo Moto Statement made by the Minister for Railways on 17-2-81.

(e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad line

1585. SHRI JAI NARAIN ROAT:
 Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has approved a proposal of the Railway Ministry regarding conversion of metre gauge line into broad gauge from Delhi to Udaipur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Visit of Secretary (E.R.) to Gulf Countries

1586. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
 Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the visit of the Secretary Economic Relating to the Gulf countries; and

(b) how far this visit would be helpful in paving the way for fresh Indo-Arab and Economic Co-operation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Shri Ramesh Bhandari, Secretary (ER) in the Ministry of External Affairs, visited Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar during October, 1980. The main purpose of this visit was to arrange for additional supplies of oil to meet the shortfall caused by the interruption in supplies in the wake of Iran-Iraq war. The visit apart from pro-