

Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 and the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 provide for maternity benefit. These Acts also provide that a women employee shall not be dismissed or discharged during the period of maternity leave. The Central Civil Female Government employees are also entitled to the grant of maternity leave. Further marriage, pregnancy or having a child does not constitute a ground for dismissal of female employee from Government service.

The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 provides equality of marital status both to husband and wife and include the principle of monogamy.

As regards bank loans, the banks make no distinction amongst their clients on the basis of sex.

Local Problems of Dhanbad division

4758. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Ministry has been drawn to the news published in the Hiraval, Dhanbad based weekly dated 6th June, 1981 regarding various local problems including some matters concerning the Railwaymen of Dhanbad Division, Eastern Railway; and

(b) action taken by the Railway Ministry thereon?

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

(b) The suggestions made are under active consideration of the Government.

Memorandum from Office Bearers of Marathwada Tanata Vikas Parishad

4759. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the office bearers of Marathwada Tana-

ta Vikas Parishad, Aurangabad (Maharashtra) have submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister in the month of April, 1981;

(b) if so, the details of the demands made therein; and

(c) the action Government have taken or propose to take on each of the demands made therein?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Pak Bridge over Jhelum with Chinese Help

4760. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards a news item appearing in the "Times of India" dated 27th April, 1981 under the caption "Pak bridge over Jhelum with Chinese aid;

(b) if so, the expected dangers of Pak infiltrators intruding into Kashmir as a result of completion of the Bridge;

(c) whether the attention of Chinese Government has been drawn towards it when talks for friendship and improvement of relations between the two countries are going on; and

(d) if so, the details of reaction of Chinese Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. However, Government have no information to corroborate the report that the bridge over river Jhelum is being constructed with Chinese help.

(b) Such a bridge would provide an alternative route between Domel and Tithwal.