

(b) whether some of these General Managers were sent abroad for gaining technical knowledge and expertise in the construction of the tube railways;

(c) why these officers after completion of their training were allowed to go elsewhere from the Calcutta Metro; and

(d) Government's reaction to such short term training of the Metro General Managers?

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

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The present General Manager/MTP Calcutta would be super-annuating in November 1981 after being in this assignment for 13 months. His predecessor was also in this assignment for the same period. The earlier General Manager remained in this post for about 3 years. General Managers are very senior administrative posts. By the time an officer reaches this position his residuary service term is normally not very long. However, the continuity at the Chief Engineers' level is being maintained for longer periods.

Scholarship for Study Abroad

1676. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for giving scholarships to those students who intend to make further studies abroad;

(b) the number of students who were given scholarships in 1981 indicating the nature of further study, the amount of scholarship and the criteria adopted for giving scholarship in each case and whether a list thereof will be laid on the Table of the House; and

(c) whether any rules have been framed therefor and if so, the details thereof?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SMT. SHEILA KAUL): (a) to (c). statement giving the criteria followed for the award of scholarships under the Scheme of Scholarships for Study Abroad is attached.

[Laid on the Table. See No. LT-2714/81]

The Selection Committees have finalised the selection but certain formalities are yet to be completed. After it is done, the list will be published in all the leading newspapers in the country and a copy of the same will be sent to the Parliament Library for the information of the Members.

International Congress of Leprosy in New Delhi Through Hind Kusth Nivaran Sangh

1677. SHRI HARINATH MISRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have invited an International Congress of Leprosy in New Delhi in 1983 through the Hind Kusth Nivaran Sangh;

(b) the representatives of how many countries are expected to take part in the International Congress of leprosy and what is the duration of the Congress session;

(c) what concrete steps have been formulated and measures taken by the Hind Kusth Nivaran Sangh for holding the international leprosy congress successfully in New Delhi; and

(d) what measures have been taken, or are proposed to be taken to attract the attention and participation of workers throughout the country interested in serving the cause of leprosy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) With the concurrence of the Government of India the Hind Kusth Nivaran Sangh have invited the International Congress of Leprosy in New Delhi in 1983.

(b) Delegates from over 100 countries are expected to participate. Duration of the Congress session is about 6 days and another 3 days are likely to be spent in Workshops prior to the actual session of the Congress.

(c) The Hind Kusth Nivaran Sangh has formed an Organising Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State, Health and Family Welfare to deal with the overall arrangements. In addition, Scientific and Working Committee have also been formed.

(d) International Leprosy Association have already notified all Branches, Associates etc. of the above Congress. In addition there will be publicity about the Congress through the Indian Tourism Development Corporation, Air-India etc. as also all Voluntary and official Agencies working in the field of Leprosy relief in India.

Bankura-Raniganj Line

1678. **SHRI SUDHIR KUMAR GIRI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what steps have been taken to build up railway link from Bankura to Raniganj since this project has been under consideration of the Railway Ministry for a long time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): At the instance and cost of the Govt. of West Bengal, a survey was undertaken by the South Eastern Railway for a new broad gauge line from Bankura to Raniganj via Mejhia including a bridge over the Damodar river. The survey report was made available to the Govt. of West Bengal in December, 1977.

The Central Govt. also considered the provision of such a rail link, but a final decision could not be taken in the matter, for want of firm indications of the quantum of coal to be moved from Mejhia Coal fields to Kolaghat Thermal Power Station which would be the main factor influencing the viability of the project. Recently, some indications have become available that coal will be moving from Mejhia Coal fields by rail and, therefore, a quick reappraisal of the earlier survey has been taken in hand. The reappraisal report is expected to be available shortly. An investment decision will be taken after examination of the report with due regard to all factors of the case including financial viability and availability of resources.

U. S. President's Assurance to Australian Prime Minister About Indian

1679. **SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that president Reagan has assured the Australian Prime Minister Mr. Fraser that the U. S. presence in the Indian Ocean will continue to be strong and that it is permanent; and

(b) if so, what are details in this regard and reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Government have no information that the Government of USA have given such a specific assurance to the Government of Australia. We have, however noted with heightened concern the stated US intention to further increase its military presence in the Indian Ocean area.

Government of India have consistently opposed Great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean area, in bilateral contacts as also at various international and multilateral forums such as the UN and Non-Aligned meetings. India is working with other Non-Alig-