

(d) how much amount was outstanding against the Society when Ministry issued instructions to renew the contract ; and

(e) why the contract was not terminated for not paying Railway dues as per agreement as was done in case of cycle stand-cum-Car Parking contract at Allahabad (City side)?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKURJUN): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Declaration of Major Rivers as National Waterways

718. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to declare several major rivers as national waterways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any separate authority would be constituted to look after their development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The following ten waterways have been identified as suitable as National Waterways:—

- (i) The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly system
- (ii) The Brahmaputra
- (iii) The Sunderbans
- (iv) The Narmada
- (v) The Tapi

(vi) The Mahanadi

(vii) The Godavari

(viii) The Mandovi-Cumbarjua Canal and Zuari waterway

(ix) The Krishna

(x) The Alleppey Cochin waterway.

(c) The National Transport Policy Committee (1980) have recommended creation of an "Inland Waterways Authority of India" to look after among other things, the development maintenance and management of these National Waterways. This recommendation is still under consideration of Government.

Committee to Study the Working of Private Agencies in Ports for Booking of Space Etc. for Foreign Trade

719. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high-power Committee set up to study the working of private agencies in the ports of the country for booking of space etc. for foreign trade and other allied matters has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the principal recommendations contained in the report and the action proposed to be taken on this report?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The Working Group on Tramp Operators has recently submitted its report. The Working Group has recommended that—

- (1) The intermediary agents, e.g. Steamer/Shipping agents, freight forwarders etc. should be licenced by Director General of Shipping or his delegated authorities. For this purpose

Government should consider framing suitable comprehensive legislation.

- (2) Standing Committees may be set up at ports of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Cochin consisting of representatives of Director General of Shipping, Port Trusts, Income Tax, R. B. I., Customs, Ministry of Commerce and GIC.
- (3) More Indian Shipping Companies should enter India's overseas trade.
- (4) Government should support the establishment of International Maritime Bureau.
- (5) Shippers Organisations should patronise national bottoms.
- (6) Conferences should periodically review their freight tariff and fix economic freight rates under the existing procedure.
- (7) Conferences, particularly Indian lines, should provide regular/promotional sailings to various overseas destination.
- (8) Foreign Shipowners should furnish to Customs the required information relevant to their credibility, past record of service etc.
- (9) MMD Officers should be more vigilant in respect of inspection and survey of foreign tramp vessels.
- (10) R.B.I. should withhold remittance of freight by steamers' agent, till the delivery of goods at destination ports.
- (11) Indian Shippers should patronise national bottoms.

The above recommendations are under examination of the Ministry. The other Ministries/Departments have been addressed. It will be sometime before decisions are taken by Government.

ललितपुर स्टेशन पर शायिकाओं का आरक्षण

720. श्री नन्द किशोर शर्मा : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेल मंत्रालय को निजामुद्दीन और रायपुर के बीच चलने वाली छत्तीसगढ़ एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी में ललितपुर स्टेशन से दो शायिकाओं के आरक्षण हेतु सुझाव प्राप्त हुए हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा उत पर क्या कार्रवाई करने का विचार है ?

रेल तथा शिक्षा और समाज कल्याण मंत्रालयों तथा संसदीय कार्य विभाग में उप मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) :

(क) और (ख) जी, हां। 1-12-1981 में छ: महीने का अवधि के लिए, प्रयोगात्मक आधार पर, 138 उप छत्तीसगढ़ एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी में ललितपुर स्टेशन के लिए दूसरे दर्जे की 2 शायिकाओं का कोटा आवंटित करने का प्रस्ताव है।

Letters from Members of Parliament

721. SHRI D. S. A. SIVAPRAKASHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many letters from the Members of Parliament were received from December 1980 to till date by Divisional Manager, Madurai and Chief Personnel Officer, Madras, Southern Railway;

(b) how many such letters have been replied to by the concerned officers; and