

Financial Assistance to Sangeet Natak Academy

4000. SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) how much financial assistance is given to the Sangeet Natak Academy from 1980 onwards;

(b) how do they distribute this amount and who are the beneficiaries of 1980 and 1981; and

(c) how many applicants were rejected annually from 1980 onwards and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTERIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) The following grants were paid by the Department of Culture to the Sangeet Natak Akademi:

	Non-Plan	Plan
1980-81	Rs. 34,00,000/-	Rs. 31,80,000/-
1981-82	Rs. 36,60,000/-	Rs. 36,02,000/-

(b) The Akademi released Rs. 6,41,500/- under Non-Plan and Rs. 2,43,676.25 under Plan in 1980-81 to 193 grantee institutions. During 1981-82 grants to 215 institutions amounting to Rs. 8,69,500/- have been sanctioned. In addition the Akademi also gives grants for certain selected publications relating to music, dance and drama. Small token grants not exceeding Rs. 2,000/- in each case also given to individuals and institutions from Chairman's discretionary funds. A list of institutions which received grant from Sangeet Natak Akademi during 1980-81 and 1981-82 will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The number of applications for grants that could not be accommodated during 1980-81 was 73 and 1981-82 it was 141.

The applications for financial assistance duly recommended by the State Akademi/State Government are invited by the Akademi in Prescribed form by 16th February each year. These applications are considered by an Expert Committee on the basis of information received from General Council members of the Akademi in the areas and details given in each application. Its recommendations are considered by the Executive Board of the Aka-

demi. Generally grants are not sanctioned for programmes which are not considered as of significance and value in the context of the policies and programmes of the Akademi.

Petition from Ticket Checking Staff

4001. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a mass petition containing 10 thousand signatures of employees of the Indian Railways Ticket Checking Staff dated 21 April 1981 containing their demands;

(b) if so, what are the demands raised in the petition;

(c) steps taken by Government thereon; and

(d) if no steps have been taken, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) No. However, a copy of the representation dated 25-11-80 from the Indian Railways Ticket Checking Staff Association was received from the Lok Sabha

Secretariat (Committee on Petitions) and the comments on the various points raised by the Association were sent to that Secretariat. The main demand of the Association before the Committee on Petitions is for treating the Ticket Checking Staff as Running Staff and payment of Running Allowance to them.

Kiribur-Barbil Line

4002. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal from the Government of Orissa to provide rail-link between Kiribur and Barbil in Orissa;

(b) if so, when such a proposal is going to be implemented; and

(c) the progress made, so far, in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No such proposal has been received in the recent past.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Berths Allotted to Kerala for Official purpose

4003. SHRI K. KUNHAMBU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of berths allotted to the Government of Kerala for use of officers for undertaking journeys at short notice for official purposes in different trains;

(b) whether the State Government has at any time asked for an increase in the quota of berths; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIA-

MENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) At present there is no separate quota of berths allotted to Government of Kerala.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sacking of Indian Employees of Iraqi Embassy

4004. SHRI CHRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that all Indian Employees of the Iraqi Embassy in New Delhi have been sacked;

(b) if so, reaction of the Indian Government thereto; and

(c) whether any protest has been made to Iraqi Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) In pursuance of policy decision of the Government of Iraq regarding non-employment of local nationals in Iraqi Missions, the services of the Indian employees at the Iraqi Embassy in New Delhi were terminated in December 1981.

(b) and (c) Do not arise since all the Indian employees affected by this decision were paid terminal benefits in accordance with the Model Contract circulated by this Ministry in 1975 to foreign diplomatic missions in India.

Number of Railway Employees died and injured in Agra Train Accident

4005. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of deaths of the railway employees in the accident between Agra and Delhi on 27th January, 1982; and

(b) the total number of railway employees injured?