

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?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) and (b) In the collision which took place at Agra Cantt on 27-1-82, 4 railway employees were killed, 2 sustained grievous injuries and 6 simple injuries.

**Transfusion of Artificial Blood in Emergency Transfusion Cases in Delhi Hospital**

4006. SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether doctors in Delhi hospitals have tried transfusion of artificial blood in emergency transfusion cases when natural blood is not available or the patient falls in a rare blood group; and

b) if so, what is the result of such transfusion?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**Congestion at Bombay Port**

4007. DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that "vested interests" are responsible for congestion of Bombay Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) details of steps that are being taken to prevent congestion at Bombay Port?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) It is not correct to say that vested interests are responsible for congestion at the Port of Bombay.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Following steps have been taken to prevent congestion at Bombay Port:

- (i) The port allows a rebate of Rs. 30/- per tonne of cargo for midstream unloading/loading. The rebate rate is raised to Rs. 60/- per tonne if the entire discharge is completed in midstream.
- (ii) The Collector of Customs, Bombay, has allowed full container loads to move out of the docks to consignees' in Greater Bombay.
- (iii) Operations of vessels are being monitored daily and vessels which show poor rate of loading/unloading are penalised by taking them out of the berth.
- (iv) Very strict control over according of priority berthing to vessels is being exercised.
- (v) The use of berths was rationalised by the Bombay Port Trust Board with effect from 13-7-1981 which has been found effective.
- (vi) The board has approved a proposal to take over covered godowns of 71,000 sq. Ft. and two open areas of 15 acres each. The plan is to shift the cargoes from the docks.
- (vii) Plans for better lighting arrangements in the Docks are under implementation.
- (viii) As a deterrent against prolongation of storage in the docks, the rate of demurrage charges on consignments lying uncleared for over a month/two months has been enhanced.
- (ix) The traffic arrangements inside the docks have been revamped by enlarging the strength of traffic constables