

Plight of Book Publishing Trade

185. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the situation faced by book publishing trade in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that lack of finances have put publishing industry into doldrums and good quality books are not available in the country; and

(c) the details of measures proposed to be devised to keep book publishing healthy and regain its momentum?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (c). The Government are aware of the situation faced by book publishing industry and a number of steps have been taken to help the industry. In so far as the question of finance is concerned, credit facilities are available to book publishers from commercial banks. Besides that, the measures taken by Government to promote book publishing include subsidizing the production of textbooks, providing good literature at moderate prices, holding and assisting in the organisation of book fairs and book exhibitions in India and abroad, giving grants to libraries and institutions, conducting surveys of reading habits, giving concessional postal rates for books, making available printing paper at concessional rates for educational books and tax concessions to authors and book publishers. These measures will continue to be taken.

Indo-Pak Joint Commission

186. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KID-
WAI:
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has since been made in establishing an Indo-Pak Joint Commission to solve problems across the table by the two countries;

(b) if so, the nature of the progress made; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c). India's draft proposal for setting up a Joint Commission has been given to Pakistan on 26.6.1982. Pakistan has assured us that the draft will receive earnest consideration of the Government of Pakistan.

New railway lines from Raniganj to Bankura via Majia

187. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 365 on 18 March, 1982 regarding new railway Raniganj-Bankura Track and state what further steps have been taken to construct a new railway line from Raniganj to Bankura via Majia?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): The report of the reappraisal done earlier for the railway line from Raniganj to Bankura has not yet been received. A decision on the project will be taken as soon as the report is received and the same examined, taking into account the availability of funds, subject to clearance by the Planning Commission.