

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) The existing capacity available on the section is considered sufficient to meet the traffic needs.

Imposition of Major Penalty by Disciplinary Authority

2375. SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disciplinary authority can impose a major penalty on Railway employee after disagreeing with the findings of the inquiry committee appointed by the disciplinary authority itself without ordering another inquiry into the charges against the Railway employees; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Yes. The disciplinary authority can impose any of the penalties including major penalty on a delinquent employee only after recording his own reasons for such disagreement with the findings of the inquiry officer. He can also remit the case to the Inquiring Authority for further inquiry and report, after recording his reasons in writing for doing so, wherever he considers it necessary to do so.

Visit of Indian Films artistes to South Africa

2376. SHRIMATI GEEA MUKHERJEE:

SHRI P. NAMGYAL;
SHRI R. L. BHATIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some 32 Indians top actors, singers and dancers

have planned to visit South Africa on a tour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the South Africa's Indian opponents of Apartheid and white minority rule in the country, have protested against the proposed tour?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A news item appeared in the Hindustan Times of 29th June 1982 to this effect emanating from the Press Trust of South Africa who have obviously circulated this report so as to exhibit their regime's cultural links with India. Several notable film artistes mentioned in the news item have denied having been invited or having ever accepted the invitation to give performances in South Africa.

The Government's policy on cultural links with South Africa is well known. India was the first country to sever cultural, economic and diplomatic links with South Africa. No Indian can visit that country without his/her passport being endorsed for South Africa. As regards the reported visit of film artistes/singers, the Government have not so far received any applications for passport-endorsements from any artistes. Government are not likely to grant any endorsements in the present case, even if applications are received.

(c) According to newspaper reports the proposed visit of the Cine artistes has been criticised by the Natal Indian Congress of South Africa. No protest as such has been received from them by the Government of India in this regard.

Government help to aging sports veterans

2377. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some of the well-known sportsmen of early period who participated in first Asian Games held in Delhi and later on