

Bonds for financing railway capital

802. SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have completed its study about the advisability of raising funds from public through "Bonds" for financing its capital expenditure ;

(b) if so, what has been the conclusion of this study ; and

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOU-DHURY) : (a) to (c) The matter is under examination.

Introduction of a direct train connecting Assam with Trivandrum

803. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduced a direct train connecting Assam with Trivandrum ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date on which it will commence operation ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOU-DHURY) : (a) and (b) There is a proposal under consideration to run a weekly train between New Bongaigaon and Trivandrum and the same would be introduced as and when the proposal is finalised.

छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में रेलवे लाइन

804. श्री गोदिल-प्रसाद अनुरागी : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्ति के बाद मध्य प्रदेश में, कोरबा को छोड़कर छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में एक भी लाइन न बिछाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री ए० बी० ए० गनी खाँ चौधरी) : यह कहना सही नहीं है कि स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्ति के बाद छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में मध्य प्रदेश में स्थित कोरबा को छोड़कर एक भी लाइन नहीं बिछाई गई। वास्तव में स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्ति के बाद 1958-59 से 1968-69 तक की अवधि में इस क्षेत्र में लगभग 337.01 कि० मी० लम्बी लाइनें बिछाई गयी हैं। उनका व्योरा इस प्रकार है।

1. भिलाई ढल्ली राजहरा (85.52 कि०मी०)
2. दारीतोला (बरबासपुर) करोंजी (58.75 कि० मी०)
3. करोंजी विश्रामपुर (13.90 कि० मी०)
4. कोरबा गेदरा रोड (8.71 कि० मी०)
5. कोट्टबलासा किरान्दुल (मध्य प्रदेश में 170.13 कि० मी० का एक भाग)

Health Standards for Civilian Staff

805. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any rules/guidelines governing health standards of civilian staff (like armed services) appointed to high public offices requiring top physical and mental health standards and if so, details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that in several cases incumbents selected/appointed to top position had disabling heart attacks incapacitating them from active discharge of duties;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several known cases of staff suffering from serious heart and other ailments have been appointed as heads of Research Institutions requiring travelling and other onerous duties and if so, reasons for such appointments; and

(d) whether Government will issue clear guidelines in order to safeguard public interest?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI) : (a) and (d) All initial appointments in the services and posts (including Gazetted posts in groups A and B, previously known as Class I and II respectively) in the Government of India are made after physical examination of candidates as per norms laid down in a Hand Book on Medical Examination issued by the Government of India. Once an incumbent is declared medically fit, subsequent higher appointment/promotion are made without fresh medical examination.

(b) and (c) No such information is available.

New port Trust for Andaman and Nicobar

806. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to have a new port trust for Andaman and Nicobar with the powers of Major Port Trust;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) what are the departments which will come under the proposed Port Trust Organisation and number of employees to be involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Government have not

declared Port Blair as a major port nor created a Board of Trustees for the ports under Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration.

It has been decided, however, to reorganise the port set-up in the A and N Islands along the following lines:

- (i) The Port set-up in the Islands would be placed under a Chief Port Administrator.
- (ii) A Management Board headed by the Chief Secretary of A and N Administration and with specified composition would be set up. This Management Board would enjoy generally the same powers as are enjoyed by a Board of Trustees for a Port like Mangalore and Tuticorin under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. Thus, the Management Board would have powers to sanction a capital work, for which provision has been made in the budget, up to Rs. 50 lakhs and would have full powers to enter into contracts, subject to an investment decision having been taken by a competent authority.
- (iii) The port set-up in the Islands would be strengthened suitably.
- (iv) The Andaman and Lakshadweep Harbour Works (ALHW) under the Ministry of Shipping and Transport would continue to operate as at present and handle all civil engineering works required for port facilities in the Islands.

(c) The re-organised port set-up, which is a part of the Marine Department of A and N Administration now, would come under the purview of the aforesaid Management Board. All personnel connected with the working of the ports in the Islands would be a part of the re-organised port set-up.