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Declaring Bangladesh as Islamic State and its Impact on Minorities there

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1985. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Bangladesh President has publicly announced to make Bangladesh an 'Islamic' State and enforce Islamic Law;
- (b) if so, what would be the fate of the minorities like Hindus living in that country;
- (c) whether Government have expressed their concern to the Bangladesh Government; and
 - (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.A. RAHIM): (a) According

to Bangladesh Press reports. President Ershad has made statements to the effect that the ideals and principles of Islam would be reflected in every sphere of State and national life.

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- (b) The welfare of a country's citizens regardless of the community to which they belong, is a matter which falls within the domestic jurisdiction of the country concerned. Government believe that the Bangladesh Government would fully protect the rights and interests of the minorities in Bangladesh.
 - (c) and (d) Does not arise.

Wrong Distribution of Wrist Watches to Drivers etc.

1986. SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the replies given to Unstarred Questions No. 1896 and 2599 on 4 August, 1983 and 8 December, 1983 respectively regarding supply of wrist

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watches to Drivers, Asstt. Drivers etc. by T.F.R. Tundla and state:

- (a) whether the wrist watches were distributed to ineligible staff;
- (b) if so, whether the matter has been investigated;
 - (c) if so, the result thereof; and
- (d) the action taken against the erring persons and the amount realised from those who wrongly distributed wrist watches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): '(a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) It has been proved that 36 watches ware distributed to the staff who were not eligible.
- (d) Action has been initiated to impose major penalty against the erring staff. Action has also been taken to recover the cost of watches from those who were not eligible for the same.

Calcutta Port Likely to be Deprived of its Coal Cargo

1987. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Calcutta Port Trust had been in the red for many years;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Calcutta Port Trust is likely to suffer a further set back financially with the prospects of substantial coal cargo being diverted to the Paradip Port;
- (d) whether coal had been the traditional item of cargo for Calcutta Port;

- (e) whether Government will take over financial liabilities of the Calcutta Port Trust in the event of its deciding to deprive the Calcutta Port even of coal cargo;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the steps being taken to raise the productivity levels of this Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPINC AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI):

(a) Calcutta Port Trust suffered deficits for 10 consecutive years from 1965-66, had a small surplus in 1976-77 and again deficits in 1977-78 and 1978-79. The Port Trust showed positive financial results during the last four years but 1983-84 may, as per revised estimates, end in a deficit of about Rs. 12 crores.

- (b) The main reasons for the Port Trust's financial situation are:
- (i) Trends in world shipping involving higher draught vessels and Calcutta
 Port's inability to provide that resulting in gradual reduction in volume of traffic;
- (ii) Existence of a large number of surplus employees who can neither be effectively utilised nor retrenched;
- (iii) Steep rise in costs of establishment, stores, petrol, oil, lubricants, etc.
- (c) and (d) No diversion to Paradip of Coal being dealt with at present by Calcutta Port is contemplated. Coal proposed to be handled through Paradip Port will be meeting the additional demand, not otherwise met through Haldia/Calcutta.
 - (e) and (f) Do not arise.
- (g) Continuous efforts are made to develop Calcutta Port by providing the facilities that may raise the productivity levels. In the Sixth Five Year plan a provision of Rs. 83 crores was made for various development schemes of