

Unstarred Question No. 5344 on the 20th July, 1971 and state :

(a) whether the open letter issued by All India Loco Running Staff Association has since been received; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take on the matter referred to therein?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes.

(b) In the open letter, the Association has stated that Railway Board's orders regarding—

- (i) Uniforms to Firemen,
- (ii) Arrears of Night Duty Allowance, and
- (iii) Change of classification,

have not been implemented on the Western Railway. As regards (i), necessary action for procurement and supply of uniforms has been taken by the Railway Administration.

As regards (ii), action to pay the arrears has been initiated by the Railway Administration and is expected to be completed within the next 3 months.

As regards (iii), under the rules, the Loco Running Staff are to be generally classified as continuous. Hence, the question of upgrading their classification to intensive does not arise at this stage. The rules are, however, under review by the Railway Labour Tribunal 1969.

The Association have also raised the matter of delay in payment of arrears of Running Allowance to the Loco Running Staff but no specific cases of delay have been mentioned.

Promotion of Drivers Grade 'C' of Jaipur Division (Western Railway)

1381. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4698 on the 13th July, 1971 regarding Seniority of Drivers Grade 'C' of Jaipur Division (Western Railway) and state :

(a) whether the Railways have sent

the rankers for diesel training in the required ratio for making them available for promotion;

(b) whether there is a shortage of such staff for promotion;

(c) whether the Railway propose to compensate the rankers in relation to seniority due to the lapses on the part of the Railway itself; and

(d) if not, what action Government propose to take in regularising the seniority and giving due protection to them ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Indo-Ceylon long term economic Co-operation

1382. SHRI J. B. PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-Ceylon long-term economic Co-operation was discussed in the month of September, 1971;

(b) if so, the nature of the discussion; and

(c) the out come thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The discussions *inter alia* covered matters relating to strengthening of the economic relations, expansion of trade between the two countries, industrial collaboration, facilities for training of Ceylon's technical personnel in various fields, expansion of tourism, extension of credit to Ceylon, etc.

(c) (i) A Ceylonese delegation is expected to visit India shortly to finalise negotiations for a further line of credit;

(ii) A team of consultants is to

be sent to Ceylon for undertaking the feasibility studies with a view to establishing joint ventures in Ceylon

- (iii) A Standing Sub-Committee for consultation on economic and industrial matters at regular intervals is also to be established shortly

Pumped Storage Scheme for Power Generation under Nagarjuna Sagar Dam

1383 SHRI P NARASIMHA REDDY Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have prepared a pumped storage scheme for power generation under the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, and

(b) whether the sanction of this proposal will be expedited in view of the apprehended power shortage in the State in the coming years ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B N KUREEL) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir The Government of Andhra Pradesh had in June, 1969 submitted a project report for installation of two Nos. 50 MW each reversible pump turbine sets at a power station located at Nagarjuna Sagar Dam. The project included some features indicating that the station would be used for conventional generation of power during the flood season.

Recently, the Andhra Pradesh Government have submitted in March 1971 a revised report for the pumped storage station at Nagarjunasagar operating as a purely pumped storage scheme throughout the year. Sanction of this proposal is being expedited.

Resumption of export of onions to Ceylon

1384 SHRI P NARASIMHA REDDY Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state

(a) whether the export of onions to Ceylon has been resumed, and

(b) the efforts made to put this trade on a firm and developing basis ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A C GORGE) (a) and (b) There are no restrictions on the export of onions to Ceylon and it is for that country to resume imports.

Broad Gauge Line from Katpadi to Tirupati (Southern Railway)

1385 SHRI P NARASIMHA REDDY Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the laying a parallel broad gauge line between Katpadi Railway Station and Tirupati Railway Station in the Southern Railway Zone is proposed in the Perspective Plan for gauge conversion and

(b) whether a comparatively small investment of rupees 2 crores in this proposal will result in an annual saving of crores of rupees by substantial reduction in distance between Bombay-Bangalore and Bombay-Mangalore, Cochin ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K HANUMANTHAIYA) (a) No

(b) As the lead of the parallel broad gauge line between Katpadi and Tirupati will be more or less the same as by the existing broad gauge route via Arkonam, the proposal is not justified from the traffic and financial considerations.

Restoration of Cut in Fourth Plan for Railways

1386 SHRI P NARASIMHA REDDY Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Planning Commission has been persuaded to restore the cut imposed in the Fourth Plan for Railways

(b) if not, whether there are any proposals to secure assistance from international agencies to undertake the developmental projects affected by the said cut, and