

Demand for facilities for Transportation of Salt from Western Coast to Assam

1410. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent demand from Assam Government and the salt traders for giving the letter of adequate facilities for transportation of salt from Western Coast of Assam; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Adequate facilities exist for the movement of Salt from the West Coast to Assam by the Sea-Cum-rail route i.e. from the West Coast ports to Calcutta by Ship and thenceforward to Assam by rail. This movement takes place under the Zonal Scheme of distribution of salt on priority basis throughout the country. Subject to the availability of wagons, salt is also transported from the West Coast to Assam by the all-rail route under ordinary traffic.

However, the Government of Assam and the traders have shown their preference for movement of salt from the West Coast to Assam by the all-rail route only and pressed for it. In view of the long haulage involved in the all-rail route and the need for adequate return cargo for the coastal shipping from the West Coast ports to Calcutta, it has not been possible to change the existing pattern of movement of salt to Assam.

I.A.S. Officers in Government of Assam

1411. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian Administrative Service Officers in Assam State in 1971; and

(b) the number of Indian Administrative Service Officers about whom

Assam Government has requested the Union Government to be withdrawn from Assam in 1972?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) On the 1st January, 1972, 116 members of the Indian Administrative Service were borne on the Assam Cadre of that Service.

(b) Two members of the Indian Administrative Service, formerly borne on the erstwhile Assam Cadre and allocated to the Union Territories Cadre consequent on the reorganisation of the North-Eastern Areas, continued, after the allocation, to serve in connection with the affairs of the State of Assam. The Government of Assam requested the Government of India to issue orders posting these two officers out of Assam and this has since been done.

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees working in the Department of Science and Technology

1412. SHRI AMBESH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of class I, II, III and IV posts in the Department of Science and Technology;

(b) the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees out of them; and

(c) the number of posts, category-wise, referred to him to convert the same into general vacancies in the last three years for want of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). A statement showing the position so far as the Department of Science and Technology is concerned is attached.

(c) None.