

removal from service is being imposed on staff causing serious accidents.

- (vi) Railways are pursuing SAIL/BSP vigorously for installation and commissioning the upgrading facilities for improving the quality of rails.

21

Defence
**Fake L.T.C. Claims in Khamaria
Ordnance Factory**

3600. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some employees involved in fake L.T.C. claims in the Ordnance factory, Khamaria, Madhya Pradesh, have been suspended;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government are contemplating to adopt any policy to check such incidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Eighteen employees of Ordnance Factory, Khamaria had availed Leave Travel Concession (LTC) in fraudulent manner. These employees have been suspended and disciplinary action has been initiated against them under Rule 14 of Central Civil Service (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules 1965 and procedures are already in force to dissuade fraudulent use of facilities.

The following additional measures have been taken by Ordnance Factory, Khamaria to prevent such cases in future :

- (i) Whenever any application is received from an employee for Leave Travel Concession (LTC) advance, he is advised by the officer that in case he does not perform the journey and the advance drawn by him is not returned in time, disciplinary action will be initiated against him.
- (ii) Every employee who has been sanctioned Leave Travel Concession (LTC) advance has to submit a copy of the journey ticket to the office before commencement of journey. The ticket No. will be noted in the register maintained in the office.
- (iii) Under the Rules, the employees availing Leave Travel Concession (LTC) facilities are required to submit the details of journey within one month of commencement of journey. After receipt of details, factory will send some tickets selected at random to local Railway office for confirmation.

The above measures taken by Ordnance Factory, Khamaria have been brought to the notice of the employees through a circular.

[English]

122

Karnataka

Defence Land for Parking in Bangalore

3601. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bangalore City Corporation has requested the Defence Ministry to hand over a portion of parade ground in Bangalore for parking of vehicles;

(b) if so, the extent to which the land, if any, proposed to be handed over to the Bangalore City Corporation; and

(c) the amount of compensation proposed to be paid by the Bangalore City Corporation in lieu thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A proposal to hand over 300' to 700' of land in the Parade ground in Bangalore for parking of vehicles has been received from the Mayor, Bangalore Mahanagara Palike through the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism during March, 1999. No decision has been taken in the matter.

[Translation]

122

Railways

Reservation Quota at Pakud Station

3602. SHRI SOM MARANDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the quota allotted for Magadh-Vikramshila Express and Farakka-Bhiwani Express at Pakud;

(b) whether the quota allotted for both the trains at Pakud fulfil the requirement of the passengers; and

(c) if not, the measures taken or proposed to be taken to meet the requirements of the passengers at this station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) At present a quota of two sleeper class berths each by Magadh-Vikramshila Express and Malda Town-Bhiwani Farakha Express is available at Pakud Station.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Railways

Rail Project Runs Into Rough Weather

3603. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned, 'Rail Project runs into rough weather' appearing in the *Tribune Chandigarh*, dated March 4, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item refers to Chandigarh-Ludhiana new line project. The Chandigarh Administration had earlier demanded a very high price of Rs. 30 lakh/acre for the Govt. land required for this corridor. The matter has since been reconsidered by them and the rate brought down to Rs. one lakh/acre. Now, there is no problem and land acquisition has been started.

(c) The work will be started as soon as land becomes available. No target date has yet been fixed for completion of this project.

Long Range Patrol Submarine

3604. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pak may steal much over India in long range patrol submarine" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated March 11, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is understood that Pakistan is acquiring three submarine from France to be delivered over a period ranging from 1999 to 2004. It is further

understood that only the third submarine is likely to be fitted with Air Independent Propulsion System.

(c) Adequate remedial measures have been taken to acquire and indigenously construct submarines. It will not be in the interest of national security to divulge further information in this regard.

[Translation]

Railways

Appointment of Class IV Employees

3605. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of persons appointed in Class IV category between March, 1998 to March, 1999 in South-Eastern railway alongwith the number of candidates belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes out of them, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK):
The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Jammu and Kashmir

Construction of Bridge over River Chenab

3606. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a second bridge at the river Chenab in Akhnoor area of Jammu and Kashmir taken up by BRO in late seventies has not yet been completed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the initial estimated cost and the targetted date, the amount spent so far and the quantum of work done till date; and

(d) the revised target date of completion and the estimated cost as well, along with the reasons for such an inordinate delay?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The Construction of this bridge was started in December 1978. It has not yet completed.

(b) The bridge could not be completed by the contractors because of the washing-away and/or tilting of the pier wells caused due to high velocity of stream.

(c) Initial cost of work was estimated at Rs. 77 Lakhs. The work was to be completed by December