

allowed recently in respect of two employees, of which one belongs to Scheduled Caste.

(d) Does not arise.

High Power Committee for Khadi and Village Industries Employees

8838. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a high power committee to look into the demands and grievances of the employees of various voluntary organisations engaged in Khadi and village industries in the country;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee;

(c) when the Committee is likely to submit its report; and

(d) the details of benefits Government propose to give to khadi and village industries to boost their production and sale, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). The Government have decided to appoint a High Powered Committee to look into the grievances of the employees of various voluntary organisation engaged in KVI Sector in the country. The composition and the terms of reference are under finalisation.

(d) For the promotion of khadi and village industries to boost the production and sales, the following facilities have been provided:—

- (1) Provision of funds at low rate of interest,
- (2) Subsidy towards interest,
- (3) Rebate on sale of Khadi and Polyvastra,
- (4) Purchase preference to V.I. products,
- (5) Excise and customs duty exemption,
- (6) Preferential treatment in regard to supply of raw material,
- (7) Assistance for Research and Development products,
- (8) Assistance in marketing products.

New Airlink facilities in Tamil Nadu

8839. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals for providing new Airlink facilities in the southern part of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). At present there are no plans to provide new airlinks in the southern part of Tamil Nadu.

Direct Express Trains to Kanyakumari

8840. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of direct Express Trains to Kanyakumari; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Doubling of Trivandrum-Kanyakumari Rail Line

8841. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for doubling of the railway line between Trivandrum and Kanyakumari; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Loss Due to Fire in Naphtha Tankers of goods Trains at Nagda

8842. SHRISATYANARAYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loss to life and property in the devastating fire in Naphtha tankers of a goods train at Nagda in April, 1990;

(b) the causes of the fire; and

(c) the details of relief given to each affected person or industry and the time by which compensation will be paid to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) There was no loss of life. Loss to railway property has been estimated at Rs. 1.6 crors approximately.

(b) The cause of the fire is being investigated by a Committee of senior railway officers.

(c) An ex-gratia amount of Rs. 250/- has been paid to each of the 19 injured persons. Claims for compensation as and when received will be decided as per law.

[*English*]

Resumption of Airbus A-320 flights

8843. SRIMADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI Y.S. RAJA SEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to resume the flights of A320 Airbuses;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) the financial loss suffered by the Indian Airlines so far on account of non-operation of A-320 airbuses?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The question of resumption of the operations of the A-320 aircraft will be considered after the report of the Court of Inquiry investigating the Bangalore accident is received.

(c) The operating loss on account of suspension of the operations of the Airbus A-