

Demands of Northern Railway Employees

*274. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a notice from the All India Federation of Railways regarding the Northern Railway workers decision to go on strike;

(b) if so, their main demands; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, I have asked whether All India Federation of Railway Workers have given any notice to the Government to conduct a strike from September onwards. He has said: no. But there was a newsitem in *The Indian Express*. It says that they have given a notice and also a memorandum to the Government regarding their demands. They have said that the strike will start in the month of September.

Their main demands appear to be to set up a permanent wage review body as recommended by the fourth Pay Commission. Will the hon. Minister enlighten the House, as stated in the memorandum, whether it is a fact that there was such a recommendation for setting up a permanent wage review body according to the report of the Fourth Pay Commission?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I would like to repeat that no strike notice has been received by the Northern Railway.

However, as far as the demands which have been mentioned by the hon. Member are concerned, they do fall into two categories. One of the two categories are those which concern the Central Government employees as a whole, on these the Rail-

ways are not competent to take a decision on these demands by themselves.

The second category is of those demands which concern Railway employees alone on which negotiations, discussions, meetings take place between the Railway management on the one side and the Railway staff on the other.

As far as the permanent wage review body is concerned, I believe that there is a committee, chaired by the Finance Secretary, which is engaged in looking into these demands. As I said, they concern the Government employees as a whole and not Railways' alone. Therefore, we are not competent to really give our opinion on this particular demand by ourselves.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: We are always seeing that on account of these strikes, a lot of mandays are lost and a large amount of money is lost to the Government. The main question is with regard to the exploitation by private agencies and contractors by paying small amounts—even below the minimum wage payable—to the workers. I am not here to authenticate the news item that appeared in the Indian Express. But they have already given the details of the demands. One of the demands happened to be stoppage of handing over the railway works to the contractors and private agencies. I do not know how far it would be practical. Will the hon. Minister enlighten the House as to whether the involvement of such large scale contractors and private agencies will be stopped or not? If it is not possible to do so totally, at least the Minister can reduce the number of contractors and private agencies and take up the work departmentally.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: In such a massive undertaking, it is natural that some work does go to the contractors. Further, all the matters mentioned by the hon. Member are matters of discussion, as I said, between the Railway Management on the one hand and the two Federations, namely, the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and the National Federation of Indian Railway-

men I think, some decision can only be arrived at in these meetings.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Rajhans.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: No supplementaries in addition to the main question of the hon. Member? Can we have an assurance....

MR. SPEAKER: No deviation, Sir.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Can we have an assurance that these contractors will be paid at least the minimum wages?

MR. SPEAKER: You are taking advantage, Sir.

Railways Link between Santhal Parganas and Hazaribagh

*276. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect Santhal Parganas and Hazaribagh districts with railways in the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: There is hardly anything to ask in addition to what has been told by the hon. Minister. But may I ask him to be a little literal and give a second thought to it?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mandar Hill-Dumka-Baidyanath Dham new broad-gauge railway line comes in this area. We have decided to update the survey and then it will be considered as to whether it should be referred to the Planning Commission or not.

Foreign Assistance to Nationalised Banks

*277. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the nationalised banks are in receipt of financial assistance from overseas organisations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). A statement given below.

STATEMENT

Under Loan Agreement signed by Government of India with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) for Industrial Export (Engineering Products) Project and Export Development Project in January 1986 and May, 1989 respectively, Government India is able to obtain financial assistance to pass on to certain nationalised banks and to State Bank of India for providing credits to enterprises in India for promotion and upgradation of technology to increase competitiveness and exports of manufactured products.

These loans are to be repaid by Government of India to IBRD over a period of 20 years inclusive of a grace period of 5 years. The rate of interest is variable every six months depending on the cost of borrowings of the IBRD.

SHRI N. DENNIS: May I know the number of enterprises to which this assistance is extended, the names of the enterprises and the basis on which the selection is made? May I know the nationalised banks to which this assistance is passed on? We have negotiated two projects. The first project is the Industrial Export (Engineering Products) Project which was negotiated on the 21st January 1986 and the loan amount is 70 million US dollars. The benefits will go,