

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Israeli Consulate in Bombay has been functioning in India since 1951. The request of the Heads of Mission of the Islamic Conference for closure of the Israeli Consulate has been taken note of.

गंगा नदी पर पुल

*381. श्री सरयदेव सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तरी तथा दक्षिणी बिहार के बीच रेल सम्पर्क की व्यवस्था करने हेतु डीघा और सोनपुर के बीच गंग नदी पर पुल बनाने तथा रेल की पटरियों को बिछाने में हुए बिलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) सरकार का इस लाइन को कब तक चालू करने का विचार है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी० के० जाफर खरोक) : (क) और (ख). डीघा के निकट गंगानदी पर पुल के निर्माण से सम्बन्धित तकनीकी पहलुओं के बारे में इस समय केन्द्रीय जल एवं बिजली अनुसंधान स्टेशन, पुणे अध्ययन कर रहा है। मामले पर आगे कार्यवाही केवल तब ही की जायेगी जब अध्ययन कार्य पूरा हो जायेगा और संसाधन उपलब्ध होंगे।

छोटी माता से पीड़ित व्यक्ति

*382. श्री राम लाल राही : क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश के विभिन्न भागों में आजकल भी चेचक के बजाय प्रसंख्य लोग छोटी माता से पीड़ित हैं; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उस पर काबू पाने के लिये सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

शिक्षा तथा स्वास्थ्य तथा समाज कल्याण मंत्री (श्री बी० शंकरानन्द) : (क) छोटी माता और चेचक दो अलग-अलग बीमारियाँ हैं और इनका आपस में कोई संबंध नहीं है। चेचक का उन्मूलन हो चुका छोटी माता की बीमारी देश भर में होती

(ख) इस समय छोटी माता पर काबू पाने में कोई कारगर उपाय ज्ञात नहीं है।

Proposal to increase DTC Bus Fare

*383. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:
SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the recent price rise of petrol and diesel, the Delhi Transport Corporation has a proposal under consideration to increase the fares; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (Shri A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). The bus fares in the Capital are fixed/revised by the Delhi Transport Corporation with the approval of the Government. No proposal for revision of bus fare has so far been received by the Government from the DTC. A proposal for revision of bus fares, is, however, under the consideration of the Corporation to meet the increased cost of operation.

Sino-Indian Relations

*384. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when and the levels at which talks have been held so far with a view to improve relations with China; and

(b) the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Besides the brief exchange of views that took place during the meetings between Prime Minister and the Chinese Premier in Belgrade on May 8th 1980 and the Chinese Foreign Minister in Salisbury on April 24th 1980, there is an ongoing dialogue at the diplomatic level. As a part of this process, Shri Eric Gonsalves, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, held talks in Beijing with the Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Han Nian Long during his visit to the Chinese capital from

June 20th to 24th 1980. I have extended an invitation to the Chinese Foreign Minister to visit India later this year which has been accepted.

(d) During the above discussions both sides expressed a need to work for improvement in India-China relations. The two sides stated that outstanding problems between them can be resolved on the basis of equality and goodwill.

Avoidance of Cochin Port by Passengers

2756. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers who had (i) embarked at Cochin Port, (ii) boarded ships in the years 1976-77 to 1979-80;

(b) how many such passengers had used Indian Ships during each of the above years;

(c) whether it is a fact that passengers avoid Cochin Port because of harassment by customs officials;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the two passenger ships "Sabarmati" and "Saraswati" which used to ply regularly from Cochin to Bombay via Goa have been discontinued; and

(e) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) and (b). The passenger traffic at Cochin is mainly coastal at present. Indian passenger ships operate between Cochin and Lakshadweep and the number of passengers carried by these ships from Cochin Port during each of the years 1976-77 to 1979-80 was as under:—

| Year | No. of passengers embarked |
|---------|----------------------------|
| 1976-77 | 6,736 |
| 1977-78 | 7,660 |
| 1978-79 | 7,929 |
| 1979-80 | 6,501 |

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). "Sabarmati" and "Saraswati" were passenger ships belonging to the Bombay Steam Navigation Company Ltd., which was a subsidiary of Scindia Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. and which later merged with Scindias. These ships were engaged in carrying passengers and cargo between Bombay, Goa and Cochin. Owing to continued losses in running passenger services on the Konkan Coast and in the harbour of Bombay, the Company discontinued these services since 1967.

Memorandum from Association of Engineering Workers, Bombay

2757. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has received a Memorandum dated 31 March, 1980 from the Association of Engineering Workers, Bombay in regard to Premier Automobiles Ltd. Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the demands made in the memorandum; and

(c) what action has been taken in regard to each of such demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Association of Engineering Workers have requested for the intervention of the Prime Minister in the industrial dispute in the Premier Automobiles Ltd. The main demands contained in the Memorandum relate to ordering of a judicial enquiry into the working of the Company, revamping the existing management structure—both at the Board and at the Senior Management level, appointing an administrator, etc.

(c) The points in the memorandum have been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Industry. The Government of Maharashtra, which is the ap-