

mic survey for a new coach production unit was undertaken, which recommended setting up a new coach building unit with the initial capacity of 400 coaches per annum, with scope for future expansion to 750 coaches per year. This report is currently under examination of the Planning Commission.

Proposal to set up Maritime Institute

*56. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAJDU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the Shipping Corporation's proposal to set up a Maritime Institute to train its personnel; and

(b) if so, when it will be set up?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This project will be completed in 3 phases as indicated below:—

Phase I 1980-81

Phase II 1981-82

Phase III 1982-83

Harassment to Indians and Pakistanis at Entry Point

*57. SHRI MOHD. ASRAR AHMAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Indian and Pakistani Nationals are harassed at the point of entry on the Indo-Pak border; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to put an end to such harassment?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Government have seen Press reports and also reports received

from certain individuals regarding harassment to the Indian and Pakistani nationals at the point of entry/exit, particularly at the Attari Rail/Road Checkpost.

(b) Apart from taking action on individual complaints, Government have considered and, in fact taken certain steps to make travel between India and Pakistan convenient. Some of the steps so far taken are as follows:

(1) Government have made the Baggage Rules for international passengers also applicable to passengers coming from Pakistan. A two-channel system, namely, Green and Red, similar to that available at international airports has been introduced by customs at Attari Railway Station resulting in considerable reduction in time in clearance of the passengers.

(2) Regular announcements are made in the trains as well as on the platform informing the passengers of the baggage concession available to them. Attention is also being paid for the training of officers in public relations with a view to achieving expeditious and courteous clearance of passengers.

(3) Several procedural and administrative measures, such as liberalisation and rationalisation of baggage rules and increase of supervisory staff at various levels have been taken in order to expedite clearance of passengers arriving at major international airports.

(4) Steps are under consideration of the Government to make the train journey between India and Pakistan less time-consuming and more comfortable. Provision of better amenities at Attari Road Checkpost is also under consideration.

(5) The facility of release of foreign exchange of US \$ 500/- under the Foreign Travel Scheme, which was not hitherto available for visits to Pakistan, has now been extended to persons visiting Pakistan.