

Loss to Railways due to Assam Agitation

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

(a) whether due to the agitation in Assam the Railways had to undergo a heavy loss ;

(b) if so, whether the rail traffic has once again been disrupted due to the recent agitation.

(c) if so, the total loss suffered by the Railways ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to revive the movement of trains in the state ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) yes Sir.

(c) Over the 9 month period from January to September, 1980, the loss of freight traffic in physical terms on account of the agitation in Assam has been 3.15 million tonnes (approx.) on Indian Railways. In monetary terms, this works out to a loss of Rs. 24 crores (approx). Passenger traffic has also been seriously affected because of the agitation. It is not possible to quantify the loss in financial terms on passenger traffic.

(d) Efforts are being made to run maximum number of trains. The cases of hold up of trains are also being brought to the notice of the State Government and their assistance sought in restoring train services in the State as per the requirements.

Modernisation of Calcutta Port

*150. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) What are the steps that the Government has taken to modernise the Port of Calcutta ; and

(b) What are the proposals of the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b) The process of modernisation of Calcutta Port by way of replacement of old and obsolete plant and equipment and other port facilities has been going on through plan development works right from the beginning of First Five Year Plan. An amount of Rs. 74.00 crores has been spent in this connection upto the period 1979-80.

2. The creation of Haldia Dock System at a cost of Rs. 145.74 crores was also a part of the process of modernisation of Calcutta Port by providing facilities for handling bulk traffic and containers.

3. During 1980-81, a provision of Rs. 4.91 crores has been made for development of schemes aimed at modernisation of Calcutta Port. The Port has recently placed orders for the procurement of 8 Nos. 3-tonne wharf and yard electric cranes and replacement of 7 Nos. 6-tonne capacity and 2 Nos. 10-tonne capacity mobile cranes. They have also replaced 18 of their old forklift trucks.

4. Schemes regarding conversion of hopper barge into grab dredger, replacement of tugs 'Sturdy and Lotus', Hi-Fix chain and procurement of 5 diesel locomotives are under processing. Twenty old forklifts are also proposed to be replaced.

5. For the 6th Five Year Plan period 1980-85, CPT has suggested, in addition to 1980-81 schemes, certain modernisation schemes like replacement of cranes, tractors, locomotives, hydraulic engines, dredgers etc.

6. Certain training measures essential for revitalising the Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System are being executed by Calcutta Port Trust. Expenditure on these works is met by the Central Government. An amount of Rs. 20.70 crores has so far been spent in this connection.

Construction of a National Highway from Delhi to Bombay

*151. SHRI NAND KISHORE SHARMA :

SHRI ASHOKGE HLOT :

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

(a) Whether Government propose to construct a National Highway from Delhi to Bombay from Mayapuri Industrial area in Delhi and running parallel to Delhi-Ajmer metre gauge rail line touching Ahmedabad and Surat and going upto Bombay connecting thereby Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra with a single road ; and

(b) If so, how much road is completed as also the time by which remaining road is likely to be completed and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA

PATIL : (a) No, Sir, There is already an existing National Highway from Delhi to Bombay connecting Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

Protocols and Agreements Signed between USA and China

*152 **SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA** Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware of the growing defence, diplomatic, trade and economic relations between the USA and China in the context of increasing cold war in the Indian Ocean between the big powers and the continued occupation of Indian territory by China;

(b) if so, the detailed information about the protocols and agreements signed between the two countries during the past six months; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto by way of strengthening India's defence and protecting Indian economic and trade interests?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) The Government are aware that there has been considerable development in Sino-US relations in various fields recently.

(b) The following agreements were signed between USA and China during the past six months:

(1) **On 17 September, 1980**, the following four agreements were signed in Washington :-

(i) **Civil Air Transport Agreement** : This agreement will mean regularly scheduled direct flights between the US and China between the cities of New York and Peking via Tokyo.

(ii) **Textile Agreement** : This agreement's stated objective is to promote orderly marketing in U.S.A. of Chinese textile products. The agreement replaces the unilaterally imposed quota by the United State last year.

(iii) **Maritime Transport Agreement** : The agreement provides for increased marine trade between the two countries. Chinese vessels will be granted access to 55 US ports on short notice as against similar facilities to US vessels in 20 Chinese ports.

(iv) **Consular Conventions** The agreement spells out the protection and services that consular officers can provide to the citizens of both nations. It permits each country to open three additional consulates.

(2) **On 22 October, 1980**, China and US signed their first longterm trade

agreement providing for an annual sale of 6-9 million tons of American wheat and maize to China during the four year period beginning 1st January, 1981.

It is also well-known that the US Government has earlier this year agreed to sell a variety of support equipment to China which includes air defence radar, transport aircraft, trailer trucks and communication gear.

(c) The Government of India keep in constant review the measures required to safeguard India's security, economic and trade interests in response to the various international development.

International convention on standards of training certification and watch-keeping for seafarers

*153. **DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT** : Will the Minister of **SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT** be pleased to state :

(a) Whether India has ratified the conventions passed by the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978;

(b) if not, what steps are being taken by the Shipping Corporation of India, the Indian National Shipowners' Association and other bodies to ratify the same; and

(c) What new courses and technical committees are being appointed to review and reorientate the present out-dated standards of training, certification, watch-keeping, fire fighting and other conventions passed by the International body?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) No Sir.

(b) The question of ratification is under consideration. International Maritime Conventions are ratified by Member States of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation. As such it is for the Government of India to ratify the Convention and not for the Shipping Corporation of India, Indian National Shipowners' Association or other bodies.

(c) The STW Convention 1978 has prescribed 13 training courses. Of these only 2 are being conducted in India at present. Arrangements are being worked out in consultation with Shipping Corporation of India and other Shipping Companies for organising the remaining 11 courses at the proposed SCI maritime training institute in Bombay, at Government's existing Merchant Navy Training Institutes or at other training institutes,