

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Direct Train between Solapur and Banaglore

†357. SHRI K. B. CHOUDHARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received for introducing a direct train between Solapur and Bangalore; and

(b) what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A proposal to divert Vijayanagar Express to and from Solapur, in lieu of a Passenger train is under consideration.

Charges for uncleared consignments at Ports.

*358. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules for charging demurrages from the consignees for not taking the delivery in time from the Ports;

(b) whether in view of the fact that the consignments are lying for months together at ports, Government propose to consider to revise further the demurrage rates and take certain other steps to quicken the clearance of cargo by consignees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c). A statement attached.

Statement

(a) Demurrage charges are levied by the Major Ports in accordance with the Scale of Rates framed by each port under the provisions of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. These charges are recovered from the consignees who

do not remove their consignments from the port premises within the free period allowed by the respective ports.

(b) and (c). The problem of uncleared cargo lying at ports is not faced at any major port except Bombay and Calcutta.

In order to discourage the consignees from keeping their cargo in the port premises beyond the free period, the Bombay Port has increased the demurrage rates with effect from 24-12-81. According to the revised rates, the rates applicable after 30 days from the last free day will be 50 per cent more than those applicable during the first 30 days and the rates applicable after 60 days from the last free day will be 100 per cent more than the rates applicable during the first 30 days.

Calcutta Port has taken the following steps for the expeditious clearance of goods from the port premises:

(i) Apart from realising normal rent charge beyond free time, penal rent at treble the rate is also realised on big consignments which remain uncleared after 30 days from landings.

(ii) Removing uncleared consignments to other sheds and yards and to recover the removal charges from the consignees concerned.

If the goods remain uncleared in the port premises beyond the time specified in the Major Port Trusts Act 1963 these are disposed of by public auction. Besides, with a view to arrange the early disposal of unclaimed goods and to suggest necessary changes in the existing customs procedures, a Working Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. Q. Dalvi, Adviser, UNDP Transport Project (attached to Planning Commission), was constituted by the Planning Commission in January, 1982. Report of the Working Group is awaited.