AFFAIRS qe pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the simplification of visa formalities by the President of Pakistan, the Government propose to reciprocate and modify the visa procedures to enable Pakistanis to visit India; and

(b) if so, what are the proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.A. RAHIM) : (a) and (b) Government is not aware of simplification of visa formalities by the Pakistan authorities apart from President Zia's reported statement that Pakistan should simplify its visa formalities for Indian nations wishing to travel to Pakistan.

It is a matter of gratification that Indian Missions in Islamabad and Karachi normally issue visas to Pakistanis on the same day the application is made. This has also been appreciated by Pakistan media and public.

Government is also actively pursuing with the Pakistan Govt. the liberalisation of visa facilities such as provision of visa for tourist groups, expansion of places and facilities for pilgrimages, and reopening of the Khokrapar-Munabao route etc.

Unauthorised departure of the Ship 'Queen Sea' from Jamnagar

*803. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : SHRI B.V. DESAI :

Will the MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the unauthorised departure of the ship 'Queen Sea' from Jamnagar to Karachi on March 9, 1983 after the ship was sold to an Indian buyer;

(b) if so, whether the enquiry revealed that Navy was alerted too late;

(c) whether under the law Indian naval ship could have chased the offender even in international waters;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, outcome of the same and action taken against those held responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHAS-KARA REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Port officer Bedi Port was informed verbally by the Indian buyer only in the late afternoon of 10th March 1983 who in turn informed Naval Officer incharge Kathiawad by telegram.

(c) Yes, provided the chase commenced within Indian territorial waters.

(d) and (e) Our information reveals that the vessel left without port clearance and that the Indian buyer had not put his crew on board which facilitated its escape from the port.

Commercial production of Mancheswa Railway Workshop,

*804. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

 (a) the target period of the commercial production of Mancheswar rail workshop in Orissa;

 (b) whether the starting of production in the above rail workshop has been delayed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the work to start production before the end of the target date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHRIEF) : (a) Periodical overhaul of coaches is expected to begin during 1984-85.

(b) No.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Nigerian restriction on sending out foreign Exchange

*805. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KO-CHAK :

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether remittances of many Indians