

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) An International Conference on Population is scheduled to be held in August, 1984 in Mexico. The previous Conference was held in 1974 in Bucharest. A broad based Indian delegation led by the then Union Health Minister participated in that Conference. The composition of the Indian delegation is determined taking into account the issues to be addressed in the Conference and other relevant factors.

Projection Vis-a-Vis Actual Passenger Traffic of Delhi Ring Railway

*481. SHRI SUNIL MAITRA :
SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what was the projection of volume of passenger traffic of the Delhi Ring Railway when the idea of its construction was mooted ;

(b) how many passengers actually availed of the facility of the Delhi Ring Railway ;

(c) whether the original projection has come true ; and

(d) if not, what was wrong with the projection ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY) : (a) The projections envisaged that 2.86 lakh passenger per day would travel by EMU.

(b) 5,50,409 tickets and 7728 monthly season tickets were issued at the stations of Ring Railway during the period January to December, 1983.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The projections were based on the basis of field data and studies. These expectations have not materialised.

Registration for Salt Movement

*482 DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT :
SHRI AJIT SINGH DABHI :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the oldest date of registration of salt movement under category 'C' for Assam has been overtaken at Ghandhidham, Lavanpur and Shantalpur on Western Railway ;

(b) whether restriction on movement of salt "until further orders" was enforced between 25 October, and 5 November, 1983 on Western Railway for booking and movement of salt to Assam ;

(c) whether any instructions were issued to concerned railway stations by the Western Railway Headquarters intimating the acceptance of indents ;

(d) whether the Chief Operating Superintendent has received prior intimation of the violations ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY) : (a) No, Sir. The oldest date of registration (ODR) was not overlooked at any of these stations for movement of salt under priority 'C' for Assam.

(b) No, Sir. However restriction 'until further advice' on booking and movement of salt on Western Railway to Assam was enforced w.e.f. 3.11.83 which remained in force till 6.12.83.

(c) Due to restriction 'until further advice' imposed on 3.11.83 no indents were to be accepted for N.F. Railway as per extant rules. General instructions were issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on 13.12.83 that indents for movement of sponsored salt should invariably be accepted even if restriction 'until further advice' is in force.

(d) One letter dt. 25.1.84 from M/s. Shyam Sunder Rajendar Kumar of Tinsukia was received by Western Railway alleging violation of ODR at Wavaniya Station.

(e) It was found that there was no violation of ODR and the loading was in order.

Fresh Survey on Ambaguda-Lanjigarh Road Railway Station

*483 SHRI RASA BEHARI BEHERA :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the survey work of Ambaguda-Lanjigarh Road Railway has been completed ;

(b) if not, when it is likely to be completed ;

(c) whether in view of multi-purpose Indravati Project, and Alumina complex at Damanjodi Koraput, a fresh survey is necessary ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY) : (a) and (b) A cost-cum-feasibility survey for construction of Ambaguda-Lanjigarh Road Rail Link was completed during the year 1965-66.

(c) and (d) No further survey is considered necessary, as another Broad Gauge link in the same area viz., from Koraput to Rayagada is already under construction, to deal with the traffic of the proposed Alumina Plant under construction at Damanjodi.

Reduction in Customs Duties on Vessels Meant for Scrapping

***484 SHRI R.P. GAEKWAD :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the shipping industry had demanded reduction in custom duties on vessels meant for scrapping ;

(b) whether several vessels had been held up for sale due to non-reduction in custom duties ;

(c) whether it is proposed to undertake the assessment of the viability of different shipping companies and age of vessels of shipping companies in the private and the public sectors ; and

(d) the steps proposed for development of the shipping industry ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI K. VIJAY BHASKARA REDDY) : (a) and (b) The Indian National Shipowners Association had opposed the practice of levying customs duty on Indian vessels permitted for scrapping on a basis different from that adopted for foreign vessels imported for scrapping. As the

Indian flag vessels are auctioned at higher prices than the C.I.F. price of similar foreign flag vessels imported for scrapping and customs duty on these vessels used to be paid by scrap buyers on basis of highest tender value at which the vessels were auctioned, it was represented that a uniform basis should be adopted for levying customs duty.

After considering the representation, it has been decided that the value of the Indian flag vessels would be determined on basis of current import value of similar vessels imported for scrapping, for the purposes of payment of customs duty. The shipowners would be deemed to be the importers of the Indian vessels which were to be scrapped and would be liable to pay customs duty. Some vessels had been held up for scrapping due to the change in the procedure for determining the customs duties and the method of its payment.

(c) A proposal to assess the viability of different shipping companies keeping in view the age of their vessels, their operations and fleet structure is under the consideration of the Government for grant of special financial assistance to the shipping industries in the context of the current recession.

(d) At present the Government gives loans at concessional rates of interest through the SDFC for the development of the shipping industry. The targets for acquisition of tonnage are laid down in the five year plans and the annual plans. The target for the 6th Five Year Plan is for the acquisition or placing of orders for the acquisition of 3.4 m. GRT. Of this 1.87 m. GRT is the target for the public sector and 1.53 m. GRT for acquisition by private sector.

Reorganisation of Railways

***485. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa has submitted proposals before Ministry to undertake the programme for the structural re-organisation of Railways in that State ;

(b) if so, what are the structural re-organisation programmes included in the State Government's proposal ; and