

(b) The Government do not agree with the views contained in the news item as the suggestion made are not entirely suited to the conditions prevailing in our country.

Closure of Textile Mills in Delhi due to shortage of Coal

*158. SHRI NIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quota of coal allocated for the Textile Mills in Delhi from October 1979 onwards to date has not so far been delivered to them and as a result thereof the textile mills are facing closure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) and (b). 186 wagons of coal were allotted per month to textile mills in Delhi between December 1979 and March 1980, against 150 wagons per month during previous two months.

Development of Haldia Port

*159. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALICK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop the Haldia Port; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). The Haldia Dock Project, except the Fertilizer Handling System, has already been commissioned. Fertilizer handling facilities are expected to be commissioned in 1981.

Commercial Apprentices

*160. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has issued orders for absorption of commercial apprentices in 50 per cent of regular vacancies;

(b) if so, whether this order covers Engineering Graduates and diploma holders who have undergone apprenticeship conducted by the Railways;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, whether Railways are considering absorption of Engineering apprentices in regular vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d). Under the Apprentices Act under which the training was given, it is not obligatory to give employment to the apprentices on completion of their training.

In the category of clerks (grade Rs. 260—400), direct recruitment is made through the Railway Service Commissions upto 86.2/3 per cent of vacancies (75 per cent in Accounts Department) remaining vacancies being filled by promotion of Class IV staff. An order was issued on 27-4-77, stating that 1/2 of the vacancies of clerks intended for direct recruitment occurring upto 31-3-1979 should be filled from the trained clerical apprentices. The trained apprentices were required to undergo selection by the Railway Service Commission concerned.