

statement issued at the end of the visit is placed on the Table of the House.

The Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of USSR Mr. I. V. Arkhipov visited India from 22 February to 1 March 1980. No press statement was issued at the conclusion of the visit.

#### **Statement**

*Soviet-Indian Joint Statement issued on 14-2-1980*

At the invitation of the Government of India, A. A. Gromyko, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU, Central Committee and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, paid an official visit to India from February 12 to 14, 1980.

During his stay in Delhi, A. A. Gromyko was received by the President of India, Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddy and the Vice President of India, Mr. M. Hidayatullah.

A. A. Gromyko called on the Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and conveyed to her a message from the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, L. I. Brezhnev and had a detailed exchange of views with her.

He held official talks with the Minister of External Affairs of India, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao.

During the talks, which were held in an atmosphere of mutual trust and cordiality, the international situation, including the developments in the region and around it, was reviewed.

They also reviewed bilateral relations in the perspective of their long and traditional friendship and in the spirit of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation of August 9, 1971.

The two sides reaffirmed their determination not only to preserve but also to develop further and strengthen mutually-beneficial relations between the two countries.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the visit of the Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central

Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, A. A. Gromyko, to India.

They also noted that the talks and discussions had helped the two sides to strengthen mutual understanding.

The two sides expressed their agreement to maintain the exchange of opinions between the two countries on issues of mutual interest on a continuing basis.

On behalf of the Soviet leadership and L. I. Brezhnev General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, A. A. Gromyko, extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union. He also extended an invitation on behalf of the Soviet Government to the Minister of External Affairs of India, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union.

The invitations were accepted with pleasure. The timings of the visits will be agreed upon later.

A. A. Gromyko expressed his thanks to the Indian leaders for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him during his stay in India.

#### **Fast Direct Train from Bhubaneswar to New Delhi**

\*60. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce a fast direct train from Bhubaneswar to New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it is likely to be started?

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

(b) It has been decided to introduce a pair of Tri-weekly Express trains

named 175/176 Mahasagar Express between Puri and New Delhi via Bhubanewar, Tatanagar, Bokaro, Gaya and Varanasi with effect from 1-4-80.

**Broad Gauge Link from Baroda to Raipur**

\*61. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a broad gauge railway line from Baroda to Raipur via Chhota Udaipur; and

(b) if so, whether any survey has been done and when the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) (a) and (b). A proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat for conversion of Pratapnagar-Chhota Udaipur as well as Ankleshwar-Rajpipla N. G. sections to B. G. primarily to serve the Narmada Project for transportation of materials. The State Government had been advised that the survey for these lines could be undertaken as a deposit work chargeable to the State Government.

**ईस्टर्न रेलवे इंजीनियरिंग वर्कर्स यूनियन की ओर से ज्ञापन**

291. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या ईस्टर्न रेलवे इंजीनियरिंग वर्कर्स यूनियन ने पूर्व रेलवे की दानापुर डिविजन के सुपरिन्टेन्डेंट को एक 21 सूत्री ज्ञापन पेश किया था,

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं, और

(ग) उसपर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. के. जाफर शरीफ) (क) जी हां ।

(ख) और (ग) सरकार की नीति के अनुसार, किसी भी स्त्रोत से प्राप्त

कर्मचारियों के अभ्यावेदनों पर यथाचित विचार किया जाता है और उन पर यथावश्यक कार्यवाही की जाती है । सभी कोटियों के कर्मचारियों, जिनमें इंजीनियरी विभाग के कर्मचारी भी शामिल हैं, की मांगों पर विचार किया जाता है और सामूहिक सौदेबाजी तंत्र के विभिन्न टियरों-स्थायी वार्ता तंत्र और संयुक्त परामर्श तंत्र एवं अनौपचारिक विचार-विमर्श के माध्यम से उन्हें सुलझाया जाता है ।

**Coal Crisis in Gujarat**

292. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wagons engaged for transporting coal to Gujarat State at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is facing coal crisis in the State; and

(c) whether Government propose to allot more wagons for transporting coal to Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) In the Railway transport system, wagons are not earmarked for transportation of coal or other commodities to any particular State.

(b) Occasional reports are received regarding scarcity of coal from Gujarat as well as from other States.

(c) Action has been taken to step up coal loading for consumers in Gujarat State as well as for other States. While in January '80 on an average 624 wagons per day were loaded for Gujarat State, in February it improved to 662 wagons per day.

**Meetings of Provident Fund Trustees Board**

293. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many meetings of the Provident Fund Trustees Board have been held in 1979; and