

to restore normalcy to the functioning of the Railways and to make them viable. Besides, a number of concessions have already been announced to improve the lot of railway employees.

Appointment of Mr. Justice R. S. Narula as Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court

*34. SHRI DINESH JOARDER: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Mr. Justice P. C. Pandit senior most judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court has resigned protesting against the appointment of Mr. Justice R. S. Narula as Chief Justice of that High Court; and

(b) the criteria followed for the selection of Shri R. S. Narula as Chief Justice?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Merit and suitability.

Electrification of Railway Lines in Kerala

*35. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government is pressing the Centre to take up electrification of some of the Railway lines in Kerala in the Fifth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any discussions have been held with the State Government on this; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

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THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Feasibility studies in regard to the electrification of Railway lines in the Kerala State have been carried out to ascertain the viability of the projects. But due to heavy capital investment and low density of traffic the electrification of these sections has not been found economically justified at present

Enquiry Commission to probe into the Allegations of Corruption against West Bengal Ministers

*36. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the Government of West Bengal has set up an Enquiry Commission to probe allegations of corruption against the State Ministers, and

(b) whether Government accepted the request made by the Government of West Bengal to change some of the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act and if so, the reasons for accepting such request by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) (a) and (b). The Government of West Bengal proposed to appoint a Commission of Enquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, for the purpose of making enquiry into the allegations of corruption, if any, made against Ministers of the State Cabinet in relation to their official work. In order that no one is allowed to make false and frivolous allegations before the Commission and go unpunished, the State Government proposed that the Commission be vested with powers to try in a summary way the offence of prejury and sentence the offender