

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, April 11, 1972/
Chaltra 22, 1894(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Complaints regarding General Elections
in States

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*34I SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU
SHRI SHIV KUMAR SHASTRI

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

(a) the total number of complaints received by Election Commissioner and the Chief Electoral Officers in the States regarding the recent General Elections to the Delhi Metropolitan Council and Legislative Assemblies and bye elections in U P, and

(b) the nature of complaints received and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY)

(a) 1433 complaints were received by the Election Commission and 546 by the Chief Electoral Officers of the State of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mysore, Punjab and Tripura and of the Union territories of Delhi and Goa, Daman and Dru The particulars of complaints called for from the Chief Electoral Officers of the States of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Rajasthan and West Bengal have not yet been received and are awaited

(b) A statement containing the nature of complaints is laid on the Table of the House Wherever the complaints contained specific allegations, they were immediately brought to the notice of the authorities concerned for appropriate action

STATEMENT

Statement containing the nature of complaints regarding the recent General Elections to the Delhi Metropolitan Council and Legislative Assemblies and bye-election in Uttar Pradesh

Nature of complaints	Received by Commission	Received by C E O's
Omission of names and inclusion of bogus names in the electoral rolls ..	150	—
Transfer of officers on the eve of elections ...	38	3
Participation by Government employees in elections ..	270	176
Misuse of Government machinery ..	59	160
Partisan attitude of Government officers employed on election duty. ...	36	34
Printing and publishing objectionable posters, pamphlets etc ...	11	—
Intimidation and coercion of voters at polling stations ...	70	47
Impersonation by voters. ...	30	1
Disturbance at public meetings and maintenance of law and order. ...	419	66
Complaints of other miscellaneous character ...	350	59
	1433	546

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : The statement is a gross understatement of what has happened. In West Bengal, out of 280 assembly constituencies, in 200 there was outright rigging and violence. There is no reflection of it in the statement. We can produce before you hundreds of ballot papers which we have collected from the roadside and various other places like polling stations and below mattresses. The hon. Minister has not only made a gross understatement; he has even evaded answering the question. In (b), I had asked about the action taken thereon. Since there is no provision in the Representation of the People Act to remedy such things as taking over of booths through violent methods, capturing booths, making polling agents sign letters saying that everything was done peacefully and tying down polling officers to sign papers at the point of the gun—it was done in J. & K. Tripura, Bengal and many other parts of the country—what specific action does the hon. Minister propose to take to make elections look fair before the people of the country ?

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : Some of the matters were before the Joint Committee which was considering amendments to the election laws. They have dealt with them and their report is before the House. An appropriate Bill will be moved after due consideration.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : It is clear from the Minister's statement that in the existing laws there are enough loopholes and the ruling party is taking fullest advantage of them. Will Government agree to constitute a parliamentary commission to inquire into all the allegations that have come from parties and individuals in regard to the last poll ? If not, why not ?

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : Government do not find any justification for appointment of such a commission.

श्री शिव कुमार शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस के पहले कि मैं मंत्री महोदय से प्रश्न करूँ, मैं अपनी एक कठिनाई आप के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। इस प्रश्न के उत्तर धीरे इस के साथ भी बरतकर दिया गया है, उन को देखने

के लिए जब आज मैं नोटिस आफिस में गया, तो वे हिन्दी में नहीं थे। आप के संरक्षण में हिन्दी के विषय में इस तरह की कठिनाई अनुभव की जा रही है। पहले वह परम्परा थी कि हिन्दी में पूछे जाने वाले प्रश्न का उत्तर हिन्दी जानने वाले मंत्री हिन्दी में ही देते थे, जब कि अब अंग्रेजी में दिया जाता है। जब इस बारे में एक बार आप से शिकायत की गई, तो आप ने कहा कि सदन में बंध लगे हुए हैं, उन से हिन्दी रूपान्तर सुना जा सकता है। यह बात अंग्रेजी वालों के लिए भी हो सकती है। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि “हमने माना कि तगापुल न करोगे, लेकिन। साक हो जायेंगे हम तुम को खबर होने तक।”

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस की किसी भी ओर मीके के लिए छोड़ दीजिए।

श्री शिवकुमार शास्त्री : मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि चुनाव सम्बन्धी विनियमितताओं का जिक्र अभी माननीय सदस्य, श्री ज्योतिर्मय बसु, ने किया है, क्या इस चुनाव से पहले चुनाव में उन की पार्टी के विषय में भी इस प्रकार की शिकायतें सरकारको प्राप्त हुई थीं। जहाँ तक चुनाव आयोग द्वारा मत देने की प्रणाली में सुधार करने का प्रश्न है, जो नया सुधार हुआ है, उस से धीरे बिगाड़ हुआ है। मत देते समय काउंटर फाबल पर हस्ताक्षर कराये जाते हैं। इस से तो कोई मत गुप्त नहीं रहेगा और हर एक व्यक्ति निर्भीकता से मतदान नहीं कर पायेगा। क्या यह बात मंत्री महोदय की जानकारी में है; यदि हाँ, तो इस सम्बन्ध में क्या उपाय किये जा रहे हैं ?

श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौबरी : माननीय सदस्य ने शिकायत की है कि उन्हें हिन्दी में उत्तर नहीं मिला है। यह प्रश्न इंग्लिश में पूछा गया है, हिन्दी में नहीं। इस लिए इस का उत्तर इंग्लिश में दिया गया है।

श्री शिव कुमार झाएत्री इस प्रश्न में मेरा नाम जो जोड़ा गया है और मैंने हिन्दी में प्रश्न दिया था।

श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी माननीय सदस्य के पहले प्रश्न का उत्तर है कि जी हां, श्री बसु की पार्टी की बाबत भी इस प्रकार की शिकायतें आई थी। काउन्टर-फायल पर हस्ताक्षर करने या अ गूठे का निशान लगाने से मतदान की गुप्तता पर कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ना है, क्योंकि उस पर जो नम्बर होता है, वह किसी को मालूम नहीं होता है— उस का सील रखा जाना है।

श्री घटन बिहारी बाजपेयी मंत्री महोदय यह स्वीकार करेंगे कि स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव लोकतंत्र का आधार है। यदि चुनाव के सम्बन्ध में जनता के मन में सन्देह पैदा होते हैं, तो उतनी मात्रा में लोकतंत्र को आबात लगता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हू कि बिहार में पोलिंग बूथ्स पर कब्जा करने की जो प्रक्रिया हुई, क्या उस का इलाज इलेक्शन पेटीशन दायर कर के किया जा सकता है। सभी स्वीकार करते हैं कि बिहार में इस बार बड़े पैमाने पर पोलिंग बूथ्स पर कब्जा किया गया, मतदाताओं को मत देने के लिए जाने से रोका गया और जबरदस्ती मत डाले गए। मैं यह जानना चाहता हू कि इस का इलाज क्या है।

मेरे पास ये जम्मु के मतपत्र है। एक पोलिंग आफिसर रात में इन मतपत्रों पर मुहर लगा रहा था। जनता ने उस को पकड़ा और मतपत्र छीने। इन मतपत्रों का हिसाब कैसे होगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय . यह इलेक्शन पेटीशन का सबजेक्ट हो सकता है।

श्री अलट बिहारी बाजपेयी . हर एक बात इलेक्शन पेटीशन में नहीं आ सकती है। वही तो सुनिश्चल है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय यह बड़ी थिन लाइन है। जो इलेक्शन पेटीशन का सबजेक्ट हो सकता है, उस को इस हाउस में न पूछा जाए।

श्री अलट बिहारी बाजपेयी अध्यक्ष महोदय, अगर दो चार जगहों के विषय में ऐसी शिकायतें हो, तो इलेक्शन पेटीशन की जा सकती हैं। लेकिन चूंकि बड़े पैमाने पर ये अनियमितताये होने की शिकायतें मिली हैं, इस लिए उन अनियमितताओं के विषय में जांच करने में सरकार को कोई आपत्ति नहीं होनी चाहिए। ये शिकायतें केवल कुछ क्षेत्रों तक सीमित हैं। जहां में शिकायतें नहीं आई हैं, उन को छोड़ दिया जाये। लेकिन जहां से शिकायतें आई हैं, उन के बारे में जांच करने के लिए अगर सरकार कोई पालियामेन्टरी कमीशन नहीं बिठाना चाहती है, तो क्या वह कोई इ डिपेंडेंट कमीशन बिठाने के प्रश्न पर विचार करेगी ?

श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी पोलिंग बूथ के विषय पर एक इलेक्शन पेटीशन हुआ है और यह प्रूब हो जाने पर कि आतक और भय दिखा कर वोट डालने से रोका गया, इस बिना पर चुनाव को रद्द किया गया है।

श्री अलट बिहारी बाजपेयी कितने सास बाद ?

श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी उस की तो एक प्रक्रिया है उस पर जितना समय लगता है, वह लगता है।

जहां तक जम्मु का प्रश्न है, पहला प्रश्न यह है कि माननीय सदस्य ये मतपत्र कहाँ से लाये हैं। दूसरी बात यह है कि हम इस बारे में जांच करना चाहेंगे कि क्या वे जम्मी बैलट पेपर हैं या सबमूब मतपत्र हैं। (अध्यक्ष) इस का सारा हिसाब किया जा चुका है। कोई कमीशन बिठाने का सबाल नहीं उठना है, क्योंकि यह विषय ज़ायद क्रिमेडी के सम्बन्ध में है। सब सबसम

ने वहाँ भर अपनी अपनी बातें रखी हैं। उन पर विचार होने के बाद कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आयेगी।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: अध्यक्ष महोदय, रिपोर्ट से इस का क्या मतलब है? रिपोर्ट तो अलग है, परिणाम अलग प्राप्त हैं। ..(व्यवधान).. रिपोर्ट से चुनाव में जो घाँघलियाँ हुई हैं वह कैसे ठीक हो सकती हैं? रिपोर्ट तो भविष्य में चुनाव कानून में संशोधन करने के बारे में है। मुझे ताज़्जुब है कि विधि मंत्री महोदय रिपोर्ट का हवाला दे कर सारे सबालों को गोल करना चाहते हैं।

श्री राम सहय पांडे: मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस और भी आकर्षित किया गया है चुनाव प्रचार के सन्दर्भ में ऐसे भद्दे अवलील नारे लगाए जाते हैं कि जिस में चरित्र की हत्या और हनन होता है? सम्मता से दूर हो कर ऐसे गन्दे नारे लगाए जाते हैं जिस से जन-मानस पर बुरा प्रभाव पड़ता है।

श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी: ऐसी भी शिकायतें आई हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: यह सबाल तो नम्बर आफ कम्प्लेंट्स का है। यह एलेक्शंस के बारे में जनर क्वेश्चन नहीं है। ..(व्यवधान)..

PROF. MADAU DANDAVATE: Just now the hon. Minister said that there were some allegations regarding the capture of booths against the Communist Party (Marxist). My question is whether it is the CPM or the Congress Party or the Socialist Party, irrespective of any political party which is involved, are they prepared to go in for a comprehensive enquiry regarding all such allegations?

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: There were allegations of seizure of booths during the last mid-term poll. Thereafter adequate steps were taken to see that such

seizures were not repeated.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Even then they were repeated.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Why are you not allowing a parliamentary commission to enquire into this serious allegation?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: After the recent elections, how many complaints have been lodged in different courts, particularly from West Bengal?

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: Figures from West Bengal have not yet reached us. Therefore I cannot give that information.

अध्यक्ष महोदय: अब तो ऐलेक्शन खत्म हो गया है, अब तो शांति रखिए।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: शांति तो हैं ही। आप सबाल तो पूछने दीजिए।

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं ने इस के ऊपर क्वेश्चन दिया था। .. आप अपने कगज तलाश कीजिए, मैं ने नोटिस दिया था आप ने कहा था कि मैं इस सबाल को फिर स्वीकार करूँगा। शो मुझे प्रश्न पूछने का मौका मिलना चाहिए। मैं ने नोटिस दिया। आप ने सभा में घोषणा की कि यह अभी स्वीकार नहीं किया जा सकता है। इस के बारे में बाद में नोटिस देंगे तो स्वीकार करेंगे ..

अध्यक्ष महोदय: वाजपेयी जी ने दिया था, उन को मौका मिल गया।

श्री के एच चावड़ा: मैं खड़ा हुआ तो आप आप ने कहा कि अभी दूसरा नाम है। तो मुझे भी दाखल मिलना चाहिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: स्पीकर की डिस्टिन्क्शन फिर क्या हुई अगर आप खड़े हुए और लड़े होने से ही आप का हक हो गया।

श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छबाय: अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप मेरी प्रार्थना सुन लीजिए। मेरा नाम उष में था। आप देख लीजिए मुझे मौका दीजिए सबान पूछने का।

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am not allowing.

Indian Industrial Exhibition at Lagos

*342. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Industrial Exhibition was held recently at Lagos, Nigeria;

(b) what were its special features; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to hold such exhibitions elsewhere this year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Exhibition was held at Lagos during March 2—22, 1972.

(b) The Exhibition projected India's export potential and the vast strides made in the industrial field since independence.

(c) Yes, Sir. Exclusive Indian Exhibitions are proposed to be organised during 1972-73 at Tanzania, Uganda, Singapore, Malaysia, Kuwait and Fiji.

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Normally Indian industrial exhibitions are organised in foreign countries to seek markets for Indian commodities and also to earn foreign exchange.

I would like to know from the Minister to what extent this exhibition in Lagos was able to fulfil this cherished desire?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: As a result of this exhibition and the presence of the

representatives of various Indian firms engaged in the industrial sector, substantial business was booked on the spot for products like buses, truck, fire-trucks, jeeps, diamond rigs, diesel engines, duplicators, public address system, transistors, auto parts, electrical goods, sanitaryware, drugs, pharmaceuticals, jewellery, etc. The precise amount these orders will come to can be worked out only after some time. Right now, our own surmise is that it may come to Rs. 4 crores.

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: It is very encouraging that the Ministry is going to organise so many exhibitions in foreign countries in 1972-73, which are the countries which are going to organise similar exhibitions here in our country in 1972-73.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: This year we will be holding the the Third Asian Fair, and more than 41 countries have expressed their desire and willingness to participate in that Fair.

SHRI S. N. MISTRA: May I know what facilities are going to be offered to the traders and producers who want to go to foreign countries to participate in these exhibitions?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: All facilities of travel, foreign exchange and other encouragements are given to *bona fide* exporters and traders.

Effect on India of the proposed Common European Currency

*343. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state the effect on India of the steps being taken by the European common Market countries to establish a Common European Currency?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): A proposal to establish a full monetary and Customs Union of the European Common Market countries by the end of the present decade was discussed by their Foreign and Finance Ministers in November 1970. But, so far an agreement appears

to have been reached only as regards some further harmonisation and coordination of policies to be achieved by the end of 1973; and, the member countries are not fully committed to the monetary union proposal, still less to the establishment of a common European currency. Accordingly, the question of the repercussion on our economy of the introduction of a common European currency does not arise at this stage.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: May I know whether our trade with Gt. Britain and other European countries is having any change because of the appearance of this ECM ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: It was made plain that though originally the six countries of the Eurocan Common Market thought of arriving at a common currency arrangement, our own information is that it is not materialising in the foreseeable future. At many of the conferences differences of opinion sprang up among the members, and we do not think that such an arrangement will come even by the end of this decade.

SHRI S.C. SAMANTA: May I know whether India or any other country has approached the ECM to have some facilities etc. ?

SHRI A.C. GEORGE: India has approached the European Common market countries for various facilities, so that, as a developing country, our exports may be facilitated.

DR. RANEN SEN: Before its devaluation, the U.S. Dollar was the main currency which was keeping a sort of parity among the currencies of the European countries. After the devaluation of the Dollar, what has happened in the European markets, and what has been the repercussion on Indian currency, because our Indian currency is almost at par with the American Dollar ?

So, I want to know the reaction of the minister,

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Changes in these dollar exchange value will definitely to some extent affect our export potential.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: In view of the fact that the basic policy of the European Market is to remove all barriers amongst that 6 countries who are the originators of the Common Market proposal and in view of the fact that they have adopted a particular constitution to expedite this process of Common Market tie, it is quite clear—there have been so many referenees also—they are trying to have a sort of common European currency. I would like to know what is the basic source of the minister's statement that in the foreseeable future, it is not possible to have a common European currency. What is the source of his information ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: In 1967 in the conference of the summit meeting of the heads of the six member States of the European Economic Community a Commission was set up under the presidentship of Mr. Pierre Werner, Finance Minister of Luxemburg. Their report was submitted on 25-9-70 and it was discussed on 13-10-70. Our information is that sharp differences arose between France on the one side and Germany and Holland on the other side.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The dollar devaluation has also indirectly devalued the Indian rupee to the tune of 4 1/2 per cent roughly. Is it not a fact that if they bring into existence a common European currency, the rupee will stand devalued to the tune of 4 1/2 per cent ?

MR. SPEAKER: Don't ask hypothetical questions.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: It has already happened. The Indian rupee has been already devalued because the dollar was devalued. They have adopted the wrong policy of remaining wedded to the American dollar. I am sorry I am unable to make you understand it.

Trade Agreement with North Korea

*345. **SHRI P. GANGADEB:** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North Korean trade team visited India recently for trade discussions;

(b) whether any trade protocol for 1972 has been signed with it, and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A C GEORGE) (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

Trade negotiations were held in New Delhi between 7th and 21st February, 1972 between the Delegations of India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. During these discussions it was agreed to by both sides that the level of trade 1972 should be further raised. The items of import from the D P R K would include magnesia clinker, basic refractories, anthracite graphite fluor-sar, hops peppermint oil special steel including High Speed Tool steel carbon tool steel, stainless steel etc., India's items for export to D P R K would cover pig iron, manganese ore, passenger wagons, auto buses, tyres and tubes, various chemicals, jute manufactures, paper products, cotton textiles, rayon textiles and various engineering goods including ball bearings, wire ropes, etc.

SHRI P GANGADEB : Has there been any appreciable increase in the two way trade between these two countries and what are the items covered by this trade agreement ?

SHRI A C GEORGE : The main terms covered under the agreement are : Imports from North Korea include machineries, including machine tools, special steel, basic refractories, magnesia clinker, graphite, peppermint oil, etc. Exports from India are tyres and tubes, pig iron, cotton textiles, passenger wagons, auto buses, various chemicals, manganese ore, etc.

SHRI P GANGADEB : Are private exporters permitted to trade with North Korea, and if not, is there any proposal to allow them to do so under this trade agreement ?

SHRI A C GEORGE : At present the entire export is not canalised, but it is the

policy of the Government to progressively canalise every thing through the STC

Railway Link between Cuttack and Paradip in Orissa

*346 SHRI ARJUN SETHI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the progress of work of construction of Rail link between Cuttack and Paradip in Orissa ,

(b) whether it is going to be completed according to schedule , and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI) (a) An overall progress of 48% has been achieved on the construction of the line upto the end of February, 1972

(b) No, Sir

(c) The construction work on the line received a set back due to the Cyclone that ravaged Orissa last year and the State Government's inability to stop irrigation canal waters, which has seriously hampered progress of work in certain reaches

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : In view of the delay in the construction work of this branch line, may I know whether the Government have taken any special measures to finish the construction work at an early date ?

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI : The target date had to be changed. It has now been fixed for 1973. We hope that by June 1973 we will be able to complete the project.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : By what time will it be opened to traffic ?

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI : Immediately after it is completed.

श्री हुकामचन्द्र कच्छवाह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस प्रकार की जो वादें चलती हैं, किसी कार्रवाई काफ़ी जल्दी समय तक उन पर काम

बलता रहता है, जिस के परिणामस्वरूप काफी अधिक पैसा खर्च होता है। पैसा अधिक खर्च न हो तथा निर्धारित समय में काम पूरा हो जाये, अधिक समय न लगे, क्या सरकार ने ऐसी कोई नीति बनाई है ?

श्री मुहम्मद शाफी कुरेशी : कोशिश तो यही की जाती है कि काम को बक्त के अन्दर खत्म किया जाये। लेकिन जहाँ पर कोई कुदरती हादसा हो जाये, जैसे उड़ीसा में साइक्लोन का तूफान आग, जिस की वजह से रकावट पड़

गई। करना कोशिश यही की जाती है कि काम बक्त से सरम हो।

Electrification of Indian Railways

*347. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the broad outlines of the schemes for electrification of Railway routes during 1972-73 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): A statment is laid on he Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The board outlines of the schemes for the electaification of railway routes during 1972-73 are as follows:

Name of electrification Scheme	Route Kms	Track Kms.	Approx. cost (in crores)
1. Virar-Sabarmati This will link Bombay with Ahmedabad on electric traction.	437	1130	Rs. 32.06
2. Panskura-Haldia This is to serve Haldia Port.	69	114	Rs. 2.40
3. Kirandul-Waltair This is for moving iron ore from Bailadilla area to Vishakhapatnam Port for export of iron ore.	471	620	Rs. 19.05
4. Tundla-Delhi This will complete verification of trunk route from Howrah to Delhi via Grand Chord, Allahabad and Aligarh.	269	730	Rs. 19.72
4. Madras-Vijayawada This is part of Madras-Howrah and Madras-Delhi trunk routes.	433 1679	1125 3719	Rs. 31.03

It is exported that Amedabad-Baroda section, forming part of Virar-Sabarmati Electrification Scheme and comprising 102 Route Kms. out of a total of 437, would be energised during 1972-73.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR : I think all the projects mentioned in the statement are continuing projects. If so, I would like to know whether there is any likelihood of completion of any of these projects during 1972-73.

no project will be fully completed during 1972-73.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR : How long will it take to complete the Delhi-Tundla line ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : These are all continuing projects. Though some work would be done during 1972-73,

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : That line will be completed by 1973-76.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR : Is there any scheme to connect by electric tram main routes like Calcutta-Bombay and Bombay-Delhi ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : There is no such scheme at present.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA : What prevents the Ministry from electrifying or dieselising the Howrah-Delhi route *via* Patna in the near future ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : It is mainly economic feasibility which prompted us to take this line and not the line which the hon. Member is referring to.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : There was a proposal to electrify the route from Madras to Arkonam. It is a demand pending for a long time. May I know whether it is included for the year 1972-73 and, if not; when it will be taken up ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : For the time being, only Madras-Vijayawada section is included. This would cost about Rs. 31 crores. The line which the hon. Member has mentioned cannot be taken up at this stage.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : If it will not be taken up in 1972-73, when will it be taken up ? Because, the Minister has assured us on the floor of the House that it will be taken up. It is a long-standing demand.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : This process of electrification is a continuing process. Whenever the financial resources and economic feasibility of the area warrant such an electrification programme. It will certainly be taken into consideration.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA : The central execution office for the Madras-Vijayawada section is located at Madras and for the speedy execution of the work the Members of Parliament have represented to Government to locate this execution office in Vijayawada. Has the Government approved that or not; have they agreed to the proposal made by Members of Parliament to locate this office for the speedy execution of the Madras-Vijayawada work

at Vijayawada, which is centrally located for the Madras-Howrah line ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : It is with this view in mind, that it should be speedily executed, that the headquarters are now being located in Vijayawada.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : May I know whether there will be any reduction in the running time of mail and express trains after the completion of the Howrah-Delhi main route ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : Yes, Sir; there will be some reduction in the running time.

Farakka Barrage causing Obstruction in the flow of River Ganga

*348. **SHRI N. E. HORO :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Farakka Barrage has been causing obstruction in the flow of the river Ganga which in turn causes floods in Bihar area; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to undertake a detailed study of the problem ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) and (b). The Farakka Barrage is only a diversion structure. During floods all its gates are kept open and as such it does not obstruct the flow.

SHRI N. E. HORO : The Farakka Barrage is far down the Ganges and there seems to be a constructional defect in it. It causes annual floods in Bihar. Therefore, will the hon. Minister get it examined by the Central Water and Power Commission so that the floods are controlled ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : As my colleague has said, the Farakka Barrage does not cause any kind of obstruction or floods in Bihar and also in Bengal. Anyway, the operation of this will come under

the Ganga Flood Control Board which is going to be set up shortly.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA : May I know whether the Irrigation Ministry of the Government of Bihar has drawn the attention of the Irrigation Ministry here to the impression which is gathering ground in Bihar that the commissioning of Farakka Barrage is responsible for recent annual floods in the State ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Yes, Sir; the Irrigation Minister of Bihar has orally mentioned to me about this, but it is not based on any facts. In fact, the Farakka Barrage does cause any kind of an obstruction. Even in the last year when we had the largest amount of floods in the Ganga at Farakka, about 25 lakh cusecs of water flowing down the difference of the level between upstream and down-stream was of the order of about three inches only. Therefore, the statement that the Farakka Barrage causes any kind of floods in Bihar is not founded on facts.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : May I know whether the hon. Minister has satisfied himself that there is not going to be on any account any diversion of Ganga waters over and above Farakka Barrage which may adversely affect the original scheme of releasing 40,000 cusecs of water into the Hooghly river which was the original purpose so that the port of Calcutta might be saved ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Yes, Sir. No water will be diverted affecting in any way the water flow that has been planned for the Farakka Barrage. There are many months when there will be more flow and in some lean months, it will be less. This is being laid down as per sanctioned project will be operated in accordance with the sanctioned schedule.

श्री इंद्रजित गुप्ता : मैं आपके सामर्थ्य से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूँगा कि पिछली बार बिहार में जो भयंकराशित बाढ़ आई थी क्या उसका कारण फरक्का बांध भी है ?

DR. K. L. RAO : As I have already submitted, this Barrage has nothing to do with floods in the river. The Farakka

Barrage has nothing to do with the increase in flood waters there

DR. RANEN SEN : Is it known to the hon. Minister that hydro-physicists, that is persons who are experts in river irrigation floods and other things, have opined that because of the construction of dams on the the upper reaches of Ganges, namely, the Ghaghar dam and other dams, there is paucity of water near the Farakka Barrage so much so that the Hooghly river will not get any water at all and East Bengal rivers are drying up for lack of water ?

DR. K. L. RAO : That is incorrect. The construction of any dam does not diminish the water to a limit which will affect the Farakka Barrage project, I would submit to the hon. Member not to bring in Bangladesh into this question. It is a separate country and we have got to deal with it separately.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : The hon. Minister has just now stated that in all the months of the year, there will not be a delivery of 40,000 cusecs of water. Let him kindly tell us what will be the lowest and which are the months during which the flow of water will come down.

DR. K. L. RAO : As I submitted, the Farakka Barrage will be operated in accordance with the sanctioned project. When the project is sanctioned, an amount of water flow is laid down for each month. That will be the operational schedule. As I submitted earlier, in most of the months of the year, 40,000 cusecs will be flowing down except in lean months when the flow will be reduced. For this also, a schedule is laid down. The schedule goes on varying from 40,000 cusecs and the operations will be according to the schedule.

Formulation of National Water Policy

*349. **SHRI ANNASAHAB GOTKHINDE :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is thinking of enunciating a National Water Policy; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) and (b). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the growing importance of water in agricultural and economic development, need is being increasingly felt for planning and developing water resources with a regional and national perspective, in place of prevailing restricted concept of use by basin States. The various aspects of the new approach, including legal considerations, are being studied.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: Is the Government going to treat water as a national resource not belonging to any State and act in a manner of having national control over it? Secondly, so long as the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, remains, on the Statute book, I want to know how is the Government going to prevent the possibility of getting involved into the Supreme Court and tribunals over local short-sighted disputes.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K.L. RAO): That is exactly the idea. The present idea is to enunciate a national water policy because water is getting more and more scarce not only in this country but all over the world, and it has become very necessary to regulate its use in the best interests of the nation. therefore, we are now thinking of framing a national policy after making studies and consulting the concerned persons.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: The part of the question regarding Inter-State Water Disputes Act being on the Statute Book has not been answered. (*Interpellation*)

My second question is this. Will the Minister let us know the common guidelines in the field of water management and water development ?

DR. K. L. RAO: Naturally the Inter-State Water Disputes Act will be consequentially amended when we declare the national water policy that water belongs to the nation.

As regards guidelines, to explain the whole thing will take a long time of the House. I do not want to take much time of the House. The main guideline will be that every effort will be made to supply water to the various parts of the country irrespective of the fact whether river passes through or not. Secondly, various preferential uses of the water and also measures for prevention of water pollution will be enunciated.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: In order to implement this national water policy, may I know whether Government propose to call for a Chief Minister's Conference in order to obviate the difficulties that come in the way when water resources are to be used on a national level, not confining to regional or parochial levels.

DR. K. L. RAO: Naturally, Chief Ministers, being very important persons, will be consulted.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYANA RAO: I would like to know whether there is any proposal to link the Ganga with the Cauvery and if so, the estimated cost of it and when it is going to commence.

MR. SPEAKER: He can send a separate notice for this question. The hon. Member should try to be relevant.

Next Question.

Coal Despatches

*330. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governor of Gujarat had sent a telegram to him urging his personal intervention to step up coal despatches to the State; and

(b) if so, his reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Since June 1971 two letters and three telegrams were received from the Governor of Gujarat addressed to the Minister for Railways mentioning about the difficulties faced by the industries in Gujarat about movement of coal. On receipt of these communications, necessary action was taken to step up coal loading to Gujarat further.

2. Movement of coal to the industries in Gujarat had been better in 1971-72 and improved considerably during November 1971 to February 1972 movement during which was better than that during the corresponding period of previous two years. Movement to textile mills and ginning industries was also more than that during the corresponding period of previous two years.

3. Though the level of loading this year had been more, the percentage compliance of demand was less due to sudden very heavy increase in sponsored demands. This matter has been taken up with the sponsoring authorities concerned to confine their sponsorship to the minimum genuine demands of the industries.

4. All out efforts continue to be made by the Railways to step up the loading further.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : According to the statement, the Governor of Gujarat sent not only one telegram but three telegrams and two letters about the difficulties faced by the industry in Gujarat about the movement of coal. Keeping this in view, may I know from the hon. Minister what was the total requirement of coal wagons for the period of three months, from January 1972 to March 1972, and what is the percentage of shortfall in the Supply of coal wagons ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : Actually the loading in 1971-72 has been much more as compared to 1970-71. It is the highly inflated sponsored demands that has put us in difficulties. In 1969-70, the

demand of coal for all the industries in Gujarat was 22,016 wagons. It has now inflated to 40,628 without any increase in the industry itself. The consumption of coal has been shown as very high. This has put us in difficulties. This matter has been taken up with the Government of Gujarat, and the entire matter is being looked into so that highly inflated sponsored demands are not put on the Railways. Every effort is being made to see that the entire demand of the Gujarat State is met.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : My question was; what was the total requirement for the period, January to March 1972 and what is the actual short-fall and the percentage of supply ? That was my question.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : The average per-month loading in 1970-71 was 7339 wagons and now the average loading in 1971-72 per month was 8139. The hon. Member may multiply it by three and he will get the supply for three months.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : I don't want to multiply. I simply wanted the total requirements of wagons and the percentage of the shortfall.

MR. SPEAKER : He has given year-wise figures.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : What is the percentage of the shortfall according to the requirements ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : I want to make one point very clear. It is the question of how much is being sponsored by Gujarat Government. What has happened is that because of the shortage of wagons supply, the demands have been highly inflated. Whatever the demands that were sponsored by the Gujarat Government we have not been able to meet them fully and compared to 1970-71 we have given them more deliveries and more wagon allotments in 1971-72.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : In the answer to my first question, he has not given the proper reply. Anyhow, I put my second question.

MR. SPEAKER : I disapprove of this practice. You keep on listening and then you again improve upon the first question and say. . .

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : I will not touch upon the first question. I will now put my second question.

May I know from the Minister whether the Railway authorities are aware of the fact that textile industry, power houses and small and medium scale industries are facing acute shortage of coal which will ultimately result in large scale unemployment ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has to supply only wagons.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : What steps are being taken to meet that situation ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : I have stated that in a meeting with the Government of Gujarat, it was agreed by the Government of Gujarat also that there have been highly inflated demands so far as wagons are concerned. Now every effort is being made to meet the legitimate demands of the textile industry in Gujarat.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : What about power house ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : Power house also.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : Is it a fact that in some cases allotment orders were given but the wagons were not there and when wagons were there, the allotment orders were not given. If so, may I know what action the Government has taken against the defaulting officers ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : This is not a fact.

SHRI MAHARAJ SINGH : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the coal mines, both in public and private sectors, carry huge stock of coal and they burn it for internal combustion due to shortage of wagons ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : There was 9 million tonnes, now it has come to 7 million tonnes which is roughly the stocks these collieries carry normally.

Amount spent on Seul Project in Himachal Pradesh

*361. SHRI VIKRĀM MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) how much amount till February 1972, has been spent on the Seul project, Himachal Pradesh, and how much of it has been spent on the administration:

(b) the total cost of the project; and

(c) the progress made on the project so far ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) to (c). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) About Rs. 6.81 crores would have been spent on the Baira Siul Hydro Electric Project by March, 1972. Of this, the amount spent on administration is about Rs. 0.13 crores.

(b) The revised estimated cost of the project is Rs. 40.59 crores.

(c) The work on the land acquisition has been completed. The necessary exploratory work for locating the dam has been done. The road for project site has been completed. Pre-construction surveys are in progress. The Power House Residential Colony (about 50 residential quarters) has been completed. Arrangements for construction power have been completed. Contracts for tunnel, penstocks etc. have been awarded. Tenders for the construction of Power House and civil works for penstocks have been received. The face excavation of the tunnel near the surge shaft and has been taken up. Orders for the generating units have been placed with M/s Bharat Heavy Electricals India Ltd., Hardwar.

The first unit is expected to be commissioned in January, 1975.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN : My question was: how much amount till February 1972, has been spent on the Seul project, Hemachal Pradesh, and how much of it has been spent on the administration. The answer given is that about Rs. 6.81 crores would have been spent.

My submission is that the answer has been deliberately withheld because they have not been able to spend the amount which was ear-marked for this particular year and this is deliberately done by the administrator because they want to extend the whole thing so that they can continue for a long period and like several other project this is also delayed. So, this time should not be included in my time for asking supplementary question, because, I am only asking for certain information which they have not given. I want to know what has actually been spent so far. What is it that has actually been this project so far? I do not want to hear about what would have been spent.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR- K. L. RAO) : I am afraid the hon. member is going too much into a simple sort of question; it is a matter where the latest figures upto March end could not be made available. Some of these were not readily available. They had to come from the Accountant-General. The Figure was mentioned, saying, approximately Rs. 6.8 crores. That is what is mentioned. It is a simple answer. We are certainly anxious that project is completed in time. We have fixed the date as January, 1975.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN : They have been able to give the exact amount spent on administration. But what is the amount on development project? That they have not given. In any case, I need not go into that just now. I asked as to how much work was done on the project. The said, roads in project site have been completed. My information is that no bridge or road which can carry heavy machinery has been completed.

DR. K. L. RAO : The hon. Member has got too much information and wrong

information and incorrect information on the subject. This road has been laid in consultation with the Himachal Pradesh Government itself. Anyhow, I promise the hon. Member that this project will be completed by January, 1975.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN : My first question has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER : Please spare the Speaker! Kindly sit down. If I allow you and if I go out of the way in your case I will have to do the same in case of other hon. Members also. Otherwise you could ask any number of questions. But there is this difficulty. Mr. Kachwai gets up. Next question.

भारतीय रेलवे में रेलपथ कर्मचारियों
(परमानेंट व स्टॉफ) को टूंक
स्ट भत्ता

*352. श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारतीय रेलवे में रेलपथ विभाग (परमानेंट वे डिपार्टमेंट) में, मेन लाइनों तथा ब्रांच लाइनों की अपेक्षा टूंक स्टूटो पर कार्यभार बहुत अधिक है;

(ख) क्या टूंक स्टूटों के रेलपथ कर्मचारियों को कार्यभार के अनुसार पारिश्रमिक नहीं दिया जा रहा है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : यह देखते हुए कि इन लोगों को काम में बहुत समय लगता है और यह भी देखते हुए कि जिन स्टूटों पर ज्यादा गाड़ियां चलती हैं वहाँ उन के काम की

जवाबदेही बढ़ जाती है क्या सरकार उन को किसी प्रकार की सहायता देने का विचार कर रही है ?

श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी ट्रक लाइन्स, भेन लाइन्स और बाच लाइन्स पर जो आदमी काम करते हैं एक प्रोग्राम की तहत उन को काम दिया जाता है। जितना काम वह कर सकते हैं वह बराबर बराबर तीनों लाइनों में बांट दिया जाता है ताकि किसी पर भी बहुत बोझ न पड़े।

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA It is not about inspectors only, it is about all permanent way staff gangmen, etc

श्री हुकम चन्द्र कछवय जहाँ काम गाड़िया चलता है और छोटी लाइनें हैं वहाँ पर उन के काम की जवाबदेही तथा मेहनत और उन की सहायता में काफी अन्तर है। उन की जवाबदेही बहुत अधिक है। इस लिए उन की जवाबदेही को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या सरकार यह आवश्यक नहीं समझती कि उन्हें अधिक भत्ता दिया जाए ताकि वह ठीक ढंग से काम करे, और जो बोझ काम का उन के ऊपर पड़ता है उस को ध्यान में रखते हुए उन्हें अधिक राहत दी जाए ?

MR SPLAKFR It is a suggestion for action

श्री हुकम चन्द्र कछवय अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप मेरे सवाल को इस तरह से टाल क्यों बोलते हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय श्री वाजपेयी जरा उन को सम्पत्तिद्वी सवाल करने का रूख समझा दें।

श्री अरुण बिहारी वाजपेयी वह पुराने केम्बर हैं, उन्हें कौन से सबसायां जाए, अपनी सरकार से वह निजम के अनुसार ही सम्पत्तिद्वी

करते हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय वह पुराने केम्बर हैं, लेकिन हर दफा नए हो कर आते हैं।

Assistance to Kerala Government for finding Rubber Market

*354 SHRI M M JOSEPH Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Kerala State Government have asked for the assistance of State Trading Corporation in finding markets for the sale of Rubber procured by the State Government agencies, and

(b) if so the steps taken by Government in providing the necessary assistance in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A C GEORGE) (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

The Kerala State Government requested the State Trading Corporation for passing on to Kerala State Cooperative Marketing Federation part of the orders placed on the S T C by the manufacturers or to lift the rubber stocks with the Federation. The State Trading Corporation has accordingly issued instructions to its Branch Office at Madras to ascertain the quantity and grade of raw rubber so far procured by the State Government Agency and to give necessary assistance to offer these stocks to the tyre and non tyre manufacturers

SHRI M M JOSFPH May I know how much amount has been sanctioned and out of it how much has already been given to the Government of Kerala ?

SHRI A C GEORGE Last October, when there was a glut in the rubber market, the Kerala Government had approached the Central Government for a soft loan so that the Kerala Government themselves may go in for purchase operation. The Central Government sanctioned a soft loan of Rs. 2.5 crores, out of which two instalments of Rs 50 lakhs each have been given up to date

SHRI M. M. JOSEPH: May I know whether there is any substantial increase in the price ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: The entry of the Kerala Government machinery into the purchase operations had a very salutary effect and our information is that the open market prices are coming up almost the level of the statutory prices.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: May I know whether the Kerala Government have requested the Central Government for releasing the rest of the amount sanctioned to them ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: In reply to an earlier question, I said that we had given them Rs. 1 crore, and till today our information is that the Kerala Government have purchased 627 tonnes, and the expenditure incurred is about Rs. 37 lakhs. So, there are still Rs. 63 lakhs at their disposal, and only when that amount is spent, they have a right to approach the Centre for the next instalment.

Supply of Railway Wagons to Ceylon

*355. **SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Ceylonese delegation visited India recently for the supply of railway wagons to Ceylon;

(b) if so, the number and types of wagons to be supplied to Ceylon;

(c) the time by which these wagons will be supplied; and

(d) whether the payment will be made in Indian rupee or in foreign exchange ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (d). A delegation headed by the General Manager, Ceylon Government Railways visited India in March, 1972. It showed interest in the purchase of passenger coaches of 6 to 7 types. However, no firm order has so far been placed.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The Engineering Exports Promotion Council has fixed targets for the export of wagons and also the foreign exchange to be earned thereby. May I know whether those targets are going to be fulfilled by the end of this Plan ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Our export earnings from wagons are going up, and in 1971-72, up to January, our earnings have been to the tune of nearly Rs. 6 crores. But this year, we were able to capture a very sizable export order, and the Projects and Equipment Corporation has an order for 3600 wagons from Yugoslavia valued at Rs. 36 crores. We hope that in 1972-73 our earnings from wagon exports will be Rs. 68 crores and in 1973-74 it would be about Rs. 84 crores.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : May I know whether the much-publicised deal with Soviet Russia for wagons is going to materialise ?

MR. SPEAKER : The main question relates to Ceylon, but the hon. Member is asking about Soviet Russia. He has missed his chance. Now, the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Better Working Conditions for Station Masters

*344. **SHRI RAJDEO SINGH :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 483 on the 9th December, 1969 regarding the resolution passed by the All India Station Masters' Association and state :

(a) whether the assurances given therein have since been fulfilled and, if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(b) whether the case of Station Masters has been placed before the Pay Commission and if so, the broad outlines thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) A statement showing the present position of