

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). This is a proposal for a new road over-bridge, the initial as well as recurring costs of which have to be entirely borne by the State Government. The costs were advised to the State Government by the Railway in June, 1977. So far there has been no response from the State Government. The work can be taken up by the Railways only after the State Government agrees to pay the initial as well as recurring charges and deposits the required amount.

Kothagudem-Kovur Line

3684. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey of a new railway line between Kothagudem and Kovur in Andhra Pradesh has been completed; and

(b) if not, the present position of the proposed new railway line?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Feasibility-cum-cost study carried out some time ago for a BG line from Bhadrachalam Road (Kothagudem) to Kovur revealed that the project would not be economically viable. No proposal for the said line is at present under consideration.

Implementation of Recommendation of Conference of Labour Secretaries

3685. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendations made by Conference of the Labour-Secretaries of different State Governments held in New Delhi in April last; and

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(b) whether any enforcement mechanism and coordination procedure was set up to implement the decisions of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b). The discussions held with the Labour Secretaries of different States/Union Territories, in New Delhi on 18th April, 1980 were in the nature of exchange of views on problems faced in the implementation of certain labour laws. The conclusions have been taken note of by the Central Government and also have communicated to the State Governments/Union Territories for appropriate action.

Unemployed Farm Labour and Apprenticeship Scheme for them

3686 DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed and partially employed farm labour in the country as on the 31st March, 1980;

(b) whether a new scheme of Apprenticeship Training of rural labour has been undertaken by Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) Information regarding the total number of unemployed and partially employed farm labour in the country as on the 31st March, 1980 is not available. However, the number of unemployed persons of age 15—59 in the rural areas according to 'daily activity' status was 12.8 million as revealed by the results of the 32nd Round of the National Sample Survey conducted during 1977-78.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. However, apprenticeship training facilities are

available under the Apprentices Act, 1961 in the trades of Agricultural Mechanic, Mechanic (Tractor) etc. to meet the training requirements of rural areas.

Alarming Growth in Population

3687. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the population of India has gone beyond 62 or 63 crores; and

(b) whether Government have recently proposed some steps, while contemplating the Sixth Five Year Plan in view of the alarming growth in population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes Sir. According to the estimate of the Expert Committee on Population Projections (appointed by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Registrar General of India), the population of India was 65.9 crores as on 1st March, 1980.

(b) The Government attaches great importance to the success of the Family Welfare Programme and as such its strategy is to control population growth through the willing acceptance of the small family norm by the people through a process of motivation and education. The success of the programme depends to a large extent on the change of social attitudes in favour of acceptance of the small family norm which again is linked with other socio-economic factors. Government are hopeful that through a process of education and motivation of the people the conviction can be brought home to them of the benefits of the small family norm. The programme is being pursued as a wholly voluntary programme and as integral part of a comprehensive policy covering education, health, maternity and

child care, family welfare, women's right and nutrition. Particular emphasis is being laid on the promotion of maternal and child health.

All media resources of Government are being utilised for promoting the programme. A large number of opinion camps are being held throughout the country to motivate and educate the people. A large infrastructure for delivery of services has been built up and people are given the choice to accept on a free and a voluntary basis, the method acceptable to them for limiting the family. Special drives are also launched during the year in certain periods for high-lighting the beneficial aspects of the programme. All these measures, it is felt, will make a dent on the rate of growth of the population

Assault by R.P.F. at Baruipara on Eastern Railways

3688. SHRI AHMED M. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at Baruipara on Eastern Railway an incident occurred on the 14th May, 1980 in which several passengers, including a lady travelling by 245 Howrah-Bardwan local train were assaulted by R.P.F. personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the culprits?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). On 14-5-80, four Railway Protection Special Force personnel were returning to Baruipara Camp after performing patrolling duty in between Liluah and Belur by local train No. C-245 Up. At about 8.30 hrs. two lady passengers alongwith others boarded the IInd class compartment at Begumpur Railway Station in which the Railway Protection Spe-