

(c) was such a restriction not against the Union Government policy of free movement of foodgrain and pulses; and

(d) what was the justification of such a restriction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) Restriction was imposed by Eastern Railway due to immobilisation of wagons loaded earlier.

(c) No.

(d) There was congestion and hold up of loaded wagons in Calcutta area which necessitated imposition of restriction so as to forestall the immobilisation of a large number of wagons

Pilgrimage to Mansarovar

9458. SHRI B. RAJGOPALA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any step has since been taken after his visit to China to send the first batch of Indian pilgrims to Mansarovar in Tibet;

(b) when is the first batch expected to start on this pilgrimage; and

(c) whether any objection has been made by the Government of China on the ground of lack of facilities in Tibet for pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU):

(a) to (c). As the House was informed in the statement by the Minister of External Affairs on February 21, 1979 on his visit to China from February 12—18, 1978, the attention of the Chinese Foreign Minister was drawn to the fact that millions of Indians looked upon Kailas and Mansarovar as scared. The Chinese Government are still considering this proposal. We, on our part, are ready

to consider similar facilities for pilgrimages to India. At present, however, in the absence of mutually acceptable arrangements for such pilgrimages, Indian pilgrims cannot visit Kailas and Mansarovar.

Proposal to revive Dhanushkody Pier

9459. SHRI P. THIAGARAJAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received any proposal with regard to the revival of Dhanushkody Pier from the Government of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) what are the contents of the reports of the High Power Committee appointed in that connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) and (b). Ports other than Major Ports feature in the Concurrent List, the Constitution of India but the executive responsibility for their development vests with the State Governments concerned. However, loan assistance has been given in the past to the maritime State Governments for development of minor ports. For the Plan Period 1978—83, the National Development Council has decided that the development of minor ports would form part of the State Plans in the State Sector. In view of this decision, the construction of Dhanushkody Pier would be the responsibility of the Tamil Nadu Government.

एतिहासिक सभा काठार

9460. श्री जीतूभाई नाथित :

श्री स्वामि दुधर नाथ :

श्री हरि विष्णु कान्त :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार यूरोपीय आर्थिक समूहान की पद्धति पर पड़ोसी देशों के साथ आर्थिक एवं व्यापारिक संबंध बनाने के लिए कोई योजना तैयार करने का है; और