

after he has been in continuous temporary service for more than 3 years and has satisfactory record of service, conduct and character. They can be declared permanent subject to the availability of permanent posts and subject to their suitability for confirmation.

(b) to (d) 64 clerks of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare who had put in more than 5 years service as on 1st January, 1979 could not be considered for confirmation, since they had not passed the typewriting test within the stipulated period. Since confirmation also depends on the availability of substantive vacancies, 34 of these clerks who are eligible are being confirmed as clerks.

(e) Does not arise.

Refugee Influx from Bangladesh

6889. PROF. SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the minorities of Bangladesh have crossed into neighbouring areas of India in large number during the last several months;

(b) if so, facts thereabout;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh;

(d) if so, the nature of the talks held or communications exchanged on the issue between the two Governments; and

(e) the reaction of Bangladesh regarding the basic causes resulting in exodus of the minorities of Bangladesh into India?

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

(a) and (b) Illegal immigration including that of the minorities, from Bangladesh into India has been a continuing phenomenon for the past

several years and has continued in recent months as well. A large group of Chakma tribals from Bangladesh side entered Mizoram illegally during the first two months of 1979.

(c) and (d) The question of the condition of the minorities in Bangladesh as well as the allied problem of illegal immigration has been taken up with the Bangladesh Government on a number of occasions and at different levels. The question of influx of Chakmas was taken up with the Bangladesh authorities both in Delhi and Dacca with a view to working out arrangements for their return to Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Government has agreed to take back all the Chakma tribals.

(e) Our concern regarding the continuation of this problem is conveyed on all appropriate occasions to Bangladesh authorities. It is hoped that remedial action would be taken by Bangladesh authorities and exodus of minorities will progressively diminish.

Punctuality of Arunachal Express

6881. SHRI R. K. KHRIME: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of unusual delay of Arunachal Express causing much inconvenience to the long distance passengers; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to improve this service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) The punctuality performance of 9Up/10Dn Arunachal Fast Passenger has not been satisfactory since introduction of the new timings from 1-11-78 which had to be introduced in order to provide connection with Tinsukia Mail at New Bongaigaon in consequence of the revision in the time schedule of the BG Tinsukia Mail.

(b) With the revision of the time schedule of BG Tinsukia Mail from 1-4-79 the timings of 9Up/10Dn Arunachal Fast Passenger trains have also been revised which is expected to improve the punctuality performance of this train substantially.

Presence of Chinese Forces in occupied Kashmir

6882. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any presence about the Chinese forces have been noticed by the Government of India in the occupied Kashmir;

(b) whether this matter was taken up with the Chinese Government to find out the reasons for their presence in such a sensitive area; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

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

(a) Government have not come across any information to suggest the presence of Chinese military forces in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Government are, however, aware that Chinese personnel had entered certain areas of Kashmir illegally occupied by Pakistan for the construction of the Karakoram Highway.

(b) and (c) Government have conveyed to the Chinese Government that we cannot acquiesce in the illegal construction of the Karakoram Highway in a territory which is an integral part of India. This was conveyed to the Chinese Government at the highest level during Foreign Minister's recent visit to China.

Export of Diesel Engines

6883. SHRI ISMAIL HUSSAIN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether country is self-sufficient in Loco Diesel Engines upto now; and

(b) if not, whether Government are going to export more Diesel Engines?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Seminar on Anti-apartheid Policy

6884. PROFESSOR P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he recently inaugurated at New Delhi a two-day Seminar on Anti-apartheid Policy;

(b) if so, broad outline of his speech at the said seminar;

(c) who sponsored the said seminar and who organised and financed it;

(d) who attended the said seminar;

(e) whether any resolutions, etc. were passed at the said seminar and if so, whether they were forwarded to Government; and

(f) whether Government gave any financial and other assistance to the said seminar and if so, full facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) to (f) The Minister of External Affairs inaugurated a seminar on the "International Struggle Against Apartheid" which was held in New Delhi from the 16th to 18th March, 1979. In his inaugural speech he reaffirmed India's well-known policy of giving all possible political, moral and material support to the liberation struggle in Southern Africa, namely, Zimbabwe, Namibia and