

Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is far from satisfaction and since last three years Government are trying to get 3 'yerawa' type inter-Island vessels;

(b) if so, whether orders were placed with the Shipyard and if so, where order was placed and when the probable date the vessels are likely to be delivered; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the proposal from Andaman & Nicobar Administration to permit to purchase two second hand passenger ship from abroad to meet the urgent transport requirements and if so, what is the present position?

**THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):** (a) and (b). With a view to meeting the increased requirements of both passenger and cargo traffic in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, it has been decided to strengthen the existing fleet deployed on the Inter-Island Ferry Service in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The PIB have recently approved the acquisition of two passenger-cum-cargo vessels for operation on this Service. Placement of order on the Shipyard etc. would depend on the Cabinet decision.

(c) No, Sir.

#### **Demand of All India Apprentices Union**

494. **SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether five members of All-India Apprentices Union observed a fast unto death to press their demands; and

(b) if so, the details of their demands and Government's reaction thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH):** (a) Some representatives of the All India Apprentices Union have gone on relay hunger strike before the Ministry of Labour and not on fast unto death.

(b) The demands of All India Apprentices Union are:—

(1) The trained apprentices after completion of their training should be considered for absorption in the concerned Department/Corporations.

(2) The trained apprentices who at the time of their absorption cross the upperage limit should not be considered as 'Overaged' for the purpose.

(3) Section 22(1) of the Apprentices Act, 1961, should be amended so as to make it obligatory on the part of the employers to give trade oriented jobs to the trained apprentices.

(4) The minimum fixed rate of stipend should be increased from Rs. 130/- to Rs. 300/-.

(5) Facilities like medical, house rent, conveyance and sitting arrangements while working in the organisations should be extended to the apprentices.

(6) The trained apprentices should be absorbed without any reference to the employment Exchange or any other clarification.

The demands are receiving the most careful and sympathetic consideration of the Government. It will be the endeavour to see that training is not wasted and that trained apprentices are found employment as far as possible. Certain provisions of the Factories Act in relation to health, safety and welfare of workers already apply to apprentices under Section 14 of the Apprentices Act, 1961. The scope for extension of further facilities and the question of increasing the stipend will be considered at the next meeting of the Central Apprenticeship Council.

The President of the All India Apprentices Union has been apprised of the steps being taken and has been advised to give up the agitational approach.

#### **Erode-Coimbatore Railway Line**

495. SHRI C. CHINNASWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open new railway lines on Erode—Gobichetti Palayam—Satya Mangalam Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu Region to help the development of Agriculture and commerce;

(b) if so, when these are likely to function; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF..: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The severe constraint on resources position does not permit taking up of this project.

#### **Late running of K. K. Express and Mahalakshmi Express**

496. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many trains particularly K. K. Express—(Bangalore-Delhi) and Mahalakshmi Express (Bangalore-Bombay) are invariably running late; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to see that the trains reach destination as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) The punctuality performance of 125/126 K. K. Express and 203/204 Bangalore-Miraj M. G. and connecting 303/304 Miraj-Bombay B. G. Mahalakshmi Express has not been upto mark. The reasons for unsatisfactory performance were mainly due to alarm chain pulling, loco losses, signal failures, accidents and public agitations etc.

(b) Running of 125/126 K. K. Express and 203/204 and connected 303/304 Mahalakshmi Express is being monitored on day-to-day basis and all efforts are being made to improve punctuality performance and the avoidable cases of detention are being suitably taken up.

#### **Man-days lost and Workers affected due to industrial disputes**

497. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) total number of industrial disputes in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise, during the years 1977, 1978 and 1979; and

(b) state-wise and Union Territory-wise number of workers affected and number of man-day lost due to strike and lock-outs during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b). A Statement showing the number of industrial disputes, number of workers affected and the number of mandays lost therein for the years 1977, 1978 and 1979, is attached.