

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):**

(a) It is understood from Cochin Port Trust that there were certain allegations regarding dry docking of the water barge "M.V. Tapaj" and the fire float "Bahadur" at the workshop of the Cochin Marine Corporation Dry Dock. The alleged misuse of materials drawn was fully investigated by the Vigilance Section of the Port Trust. An expert was summoned from M/s. Mazagaon Dock Ltd. Bombay, and a surprise inspection was carried out on 17th April, 1980 at the Dry Dock of M/s. Cochin Marine Corporation. All the plates changed on the vessel "M. V. Tapaj" as per drawings were measured and found correct and thus the allegation was found baseless. The fire float "M. V. Bahadur" was also dry docked and a similar inspection was carried out by the same expert on 18th April, 1980. All the plates were measured and it tallied with the drawings.

(b) The financial implication of the docking of the two vessels was reported by the Chief Mechanical Engineer of the Port Trust as Rs. 1,23,920 excluding other connected works, such as, cleaning, painting, replacement of plates, etc. Subsequent to the issue of sanction for dry docking the two vessels at the Cochin Marine Corporation, a Report was received from Chief Mechanical Engineer about the details of expenditure incurred in connection with the dry docking and repair of the vessels. This amounted to Rs. 3,82,000/- for "M.V. Bahadur" and Rs. 3,05,200/- for "M.V. Tapaj". The circumstances that led to the increase in the expenditure are being examined by the Cochin Port Trust. Ever, only a sum of Rs. 1,00,200/- has so far been paid to the firm as per the sanction originally issued.

(c) and (d). It is understood from Cochin Port Trust that the matter is under verification by the Central Bureau of Investigation. Since the CBI's Report has not yet been

received, the question of taking any action by the Port Trust against any officer has to await the findings, if any, of the CBI.

#### Complaints against Railway staff at Phillaur

4554. **CHOUHARY SUNDER SINGH:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any complaints against Railway staff posted at Phillaur District, Jullundur (Punjab); and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):** (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under investigation.

#### Incidences of Encephalitis, Gastro-enteritis and Infantile Paralysis

4555. **SHRI A. NEELALOHITHYADASAN:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of encephalitis, gastro-enteritis, infantile paralysis is on the increase; and

(b) if so, what has been the toll of each such disease from 1st June, 1978 to 1st January, 1980?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR):** (a) From the available information, there is no such evidence.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Government intervention in Industrial Dispute of EPF Organisation

4556. **SHRIMATI SUSHEELA GOPALAN:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state whether the Central Government is the appropriate authority to intervene in the industrial dispute of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): The question whether the Central Government or the State Government is the "Appropriate Government", under the Industrial Disputes Act in relation to Employees Provident Fund employees has been raised in a writ petition before the High Court of Kerala and the matter is sub-judice.

#### Persons killed while boarding Trains

4557. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who were killed in accidents while boarding trains in haste at the stations falling in between Dhanbad and Gaya on Grand Chord line in Dhanbad Division of Eastern Railway in 1978, 1979 and 1980 and whether complete details thereof will be laid on the Table of the House; and

(b) whether the passenger trains halting at the stations in between Dhanbad and Gaya are the same trains which have been running since British period and whether in the changed circumstances, how and in the interest of the people, Government propose to solve the problem by running summer special and Pooja special trains regularly or by extending Gomoh-Mughalsarai passenger train from Gomoh to Gaya and if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No one was killed while boarding trains in haste at stations falling between Dhanbad and Gaya during 1978 and 1979. During 1980, there has been only one case in which a male passenger while boarding 130 Down Varanasi-Asansol Passenger in haste at Hazaribagh Road station on 7-8-1980 fell down and died.

(b) Since Independence a number of fast Express trains have been introduced on the Dhanbad-Gaya section of Grand Chord on Eastern Railway. Introduction of stopping passenger trains on this section has not been considered desirable as this would occupy the section for a considerable length of time thus cutting into the line capacity of the Grand Chord which is primarily conserved for movement of essential freight traffic. It is for this reason that the 349/350 Gaya-Mughalsarai Passenger cannot be extended to Gomoh or the Pooja and summer special run as a regular measure lest it would adversely affect the movement of freight traffic.

#### Committee to reorganise Employees Provident Fund Organisation

4558. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee was set up by Government to go into re-organisation of the Employees Provident Fund Establishment; and

(b) if so, the details regarding its constitution, functions and when its report is likely to be submitted to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b). Yes. In pursuance of the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee in paragraph 120 of their 110th Report, a High Level Committee to review the working of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation with special reference to the problem of mounting arrears of Provident Fund contributions was set up in April, 1980. A copy of the order under which the Committee was set up showing its composition, terms of reference and other particulars is attached.