

(a) The seminar was held in May, 1980. Official proceedings of seminar have not been received yet by the Government. It is, however, understood that the seminar recommended setting up of a 'National Port Authority' as a statutory body to coordinate port policies at national level.

(b) The suggestion will be considered on merit in due course.

### **Increasing Wages of Casual Workers**

1375. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to increase wages of Casual workers in the Central Government offices in Delhi;

(b) if so, to what extent this will help the workers and in which sectors;

(c) whether States have also been asked to increase the wages of their casual workers; and

(d) if so, the reaction of States thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) The daily wage rate of unskilled casual workers employed in the Central Government Offices in Delhi and New Delhi has been revised with effect from 1st January, 1980, as Rs. 9.25 per day.

(b) As a result of this revision, the unskilled casual workers get an increase of Rs. 2.95 per day in their wages.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. It is for the State Governments to take appropriate action.

### **Late Running of Chetak Express**

1376. SHRI JAI NARAIN ROAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the Chetak Express from Udaipur to Delhi was late during the last six months;

(b) the main reason for late arrival of this train at Delhi and Udaipur; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to improve the running of this train?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) from December 1979 to May, 1980, 216 Dn Chetak Express reached Delhi late on 96 occasions.

(b) 215 Up/216 Dn Chetak Expresses ran late during this period due to various reasons like alarm chain pulling, loco losses, maintaining connections with 74 Dn Khandwa-Chittauragarh fast Passenger, agitations, bad weather etc.

(c) Running of 215/216 Chetak Expresses are being monitored on day-to-day basis and all efforts are being made to improve their punctuality performance and the avoidable cases of detention are being suitably taken up. In addition a special drive has been launched to improve punctuality of 74Dn Khandwa-Chittauragarh Fast Passenger on Ratlam Division to avoid late running of 216 Dn Chetak Express for connecting slip/through coaches arriving by 74 Dn Passenger.

### **Change in Pay Scales of Railway staff**

1377. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pay scales of some of the categories in the Indian Railways have been changed between the years 1973 to 1977;