

(c) if so, whether the same arrangement still exists and how this cost of Rs. 10 crores is going to be shared by Centre and State Government, respectively?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH):** (a) The cost of land and properties in the sanctioned estimate at 1970 level of prices is Rs. 7,118 crores. This now stands at Rs. 18 crores.

(b) and (c). The Project was sanctioned pending a decision on the extent of financial participation by the State Government. This matter which specially includes the question of land and properties needed for the Project is now being examined by the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Government and a decision is yet to be taken.

**Cancellation of Passenger Trains during December, 1974 and January 1975**

**4713. SHRI ROBIN SEN:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of passenger trains have been cancelled during the months of December, 1974 and January, 1975 due to acute shortage of coal;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement made by the spokesman of National Coal Department that they were keeping enough stocks of coal and Railways are not lifting it; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH):** (a) During the period December, 1974 and January, 1975 a daily average of 276 pairs of passenger trains remained cancelled due to shortage of coal.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

**तृतीय तथा चतुर्थ श्रेणी के पदों का दर्जा बढ़ाना**

**4714. श्री भारत सिंह चौहान :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या 28 फरवरी, 1975 को बजट प्रस्तुत करने समय उन्होंने इस आशय का आश्वासन दिया था कि चतुर्थ और तृतीय श्रेणी के कुछ पदों का दर्जा बढ़ाया जायेगा; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो रेलवे अस्पताल, ब्लाक 'बी', अमृतसर के रेडियोग्राफर के पद का दर्जा अब तक बढ़ाये न जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मन्त्रालय में उपमन्त्री (श्री बदा सिंह) : (क) जी हाँ। अराजपतित संवर्गों की पुनः संरचना के प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

**Report of Tarkunde Committee on Electoral Reforms**

**4715. SHRI NOORUL HUDA:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of his Ministry has been drawn to the voluminous findings of the Tarkunde Committee on electoral reforms; and

(b) whether Government intend to study the report of the Committee in depth and devise ways and means, as expeditiously as possible, to sit with Opposition Parties and others so as to bring about vital reforms in Electoral System well in advance of the next General Election?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):** (a) and (b). Certain newspapers have published reports of the suggestions said to have been made by the Tarkunde Committee on electoral reforms appointed by Shri Jayaprakash Narayan. However, proposals for amendment of Election Law were considered by a Joint Committee of Parliament and a Bill to comprehensively amend the Representation of the People Acts, 1950 and 1961, generally based on the recommendations made by that Committee in its Report was introduced in the Lok Sabha and is pending consideration in the House. Government have an open mind in the matter and will hold discussions with the leaders of political parties in this behalf.

**Agreement with Saudi Arabia to set up a Joint Commission**

**4716. SHRI M. S. PURTY:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Saudi Arabia have decided to set up a joint commission to foster economic co-operation in the form of joint industrial ventures in either country using long term soft loans to be extended by Saudi Arabia;

(b) whether the Saikh Yamani, Saudi Petroleum Minister, has given some assurance to India regarding the supply of oil recently; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):**

(a) The question of setting up a joint commission with Saudi Arabia to foster economic cooperation is still under consideration.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Dieselisation on Southern Railway**

**4717. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided for the dieselisation of Southern Railway; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines regarding the scheme of Government in this regard?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH):** (a) and (b). The policy of the Government is to progressively dieselise freight and passenger services on saturated trunk routes with a view to speeding up the movements and thereby improve the throughput across these routes. Preference has also been accorded to railways which are far-away from the coalfields. However, due to limited availability of diesel locomotives priority in allocation has been given to freight movements. After meeting the requirements of essential freight traffic the available locomotives are selectively utilised to dieselise overcrowded long distance Mail/Express trains on a selective basis.

So far, Southern Railway has been allocated 150 B.G. and 117 M.G. main line diesels besides 15 diesel shunters thereby enabling dieselisation of freight traffic on the trunk routes. In addition, 12 B.G. pairs and 14 M.G. pairs of Passenger trains have also been put on diesel traction on the Southern Railway.

**“महत्वपूर्ण उद्योग” क्षेत्रों के स्थानीय निवेशी औद्योगिक कंपनियों को जारी किये गये लाइसेंस**

**4718. श्री हुकम चन्द कल्लुवाल :**  
क्या कैबिनेट और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :