

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has drastically cut its programme of wagon purchase in the Fourth Plan period ; and

(b) If so, whether it is indicative of slowing down of the Railway expansion programme and decline in the growth of good traffic?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) and (b). No Sir. The Railway's Draft Fourth Five Year Plan provides for the procurement of about one Lakh wagons during the five year period from 1969-70 to 1973-74, corresponding to a total originating freight traffic of 265 million tonnes 1973-74. There is no change in this programme at present. The actual procurement would, however, depend on materialisation of traffic from year to year.

It is too early to consider any revision in the Fourth Plan target at this stage in view of the fluctuating trend of traffic, which though materialised according to anticipation during the first half of 1969-70, showed a decline during the last 4 months. The position is being periodically reviewed in consultation with the Planning Commission and other Economic Ministries concerned.

Setting up of a separate Election Department Under Election Commission

347. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement made by the Chief Election Commissioner at Bombay on the 1st January, 1970 to the effect that a separate Election Department under the direct control and supervision of the Election Commission should be set up;

(b) whether in that statement the proposal for setting up such poll-machinery was justified for "making election free, fair and impartial";

(c) if so, whether the present set-up of the Election Commission faced any problem to function independently and whether instances were found where election could not be held " free, fair impartial"; and

(d) the reaction of Government as a whole to the proposal of the Chief Election Commissioner ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI GOVINDA MENON) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The detailed proposals in this regard are awaited from the Election Commission.

Rules for allotting election symbol to a political party

348. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission has evolved in 1968 a set of rules for allotting election symbol to any fraction of a political party in the event of its splitting into two or more factions using the same name of the original party ;

(b) if so, the details of such rules ;

(c) whether such rules have been approved by Lok Sabha ;

(d) if not, on what authority the Election Commission will conduct regular judicial proceedings for allotting election symbol to any of the rival claimants of a split political party ; and

(e) whether allotting election symbol to any of the two Congress parties will be illegal unless the rules framed by the election Commission are approved by the Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI GOVINDA MENON) : (a) and (d). Para 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation And Allotment) Order, 1968 issued by the Election Commission on the 31st August, 1968 reads as follows :--

"15.-Power of Commission in relation to splinter groups or rival sections of a recognised political party.--When the Commission is satisfied on information in its possessions that there are rival sections or groups of a recognised political party each of whom claims to be that party, the Commission may, after taking into account all the available facts and circumstances of the case and hearing such representatives of the sections or groups and other persons as desire to be heard, decide that one such rival section or group or none of such rival sections or groups is that recognised political party and the decision of the Commission shall be binding on all such rival sections or groups."

(c) Rules made under the Act are placed before Parliament as required by the Acts and as such, orders issued in pursuance of the Rules are not placed before Parliament.

(d) and (e). The Election Commission is the tribunal empowered to decide on the question under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968. The Election Commission has to take a judicial decisions and the matter is still under consideration by the Commission. It is sub judice.

Opening of Ugna and Parsa Halts on North Eastern Railway

349. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has given sanction for opening Ugna Halt (between Sakri and Pandaul stations) and Parsa Halt (between Ghoshardiha and Nirmali stations) on the North Eastern Railway ;

(b) if so, when ; and

(c) whether the work has been started for making the Halts and by what time they are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) and (b). Railway Board have sanctioned the opening a train

halt between Sakri and Pandaul Stations under their letter dated 20. 1. 70. The proposal for opening a train halt between Ghoghardhia (not Ghoshardiha) and Nirmali stations was examined but not found to be financially justified.

(c) Plan and estimates for the train halt between Sakri and Pandaul are under preparation and the work will be taken up as soon as these are finalised.

Complaint against Vigilance Inspector of South Central Railway

350. SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred question No. 4040 on 16th December, 1969 regarding Travelling Ticket Examiner of Kacheguda (Andhra Pradesh) and state :

(a) whether any action has been taken against the Vigilance Inspector of the South Central Railway who was unauthorisedly taking his children in a 1st Class compartment; and

(b) if so, with what result ; and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) and (b). The Investigations into the allegations have been completed. The case has now been referred to Central Vigilance Commission and further action will be taken on receipt of their advice.

Establishment of a Paper Corporation in Public Sector

351. SHRI PREM CHANDRA SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government have decided to establish a Paper Corporation and, if so, the details of its capital and functions ;

(b) whether the Corporation will start its own paper mills and, if so, which quality