

talion No. 7 were recovered from the house search of one employee.

(c) It is not feasible to estimate the loss of earnings at this stage as investigation by CBI is still in progress.

(d) 4 Non-Gazetted employees are suspected to be involved in the case. No Gazetted employee was suspected to be involved. Investigation about acquisition of disproportionate assets has been taken up against one of the employees.

(e) The assets case is under investigation.

(f) The enquiries are being conducted in a fair and impartial manner by CBI for ascertaining the truth which is an agency independent of Railway Administration.

Sardar Swaran Singh's Visit to Pakistan

*67. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sardar Swaran Singh, Special emissary of Prime Minister visited Pakistan recently; and

(b) if so, to what extent it has helped to further normalise India's relation with Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Sardar Swaran Singh visited Pakistan from 11th to 14th April, 1980.

(b) The talks which Sardar Swaran Singh had with Pakistani leaders helped to create a better understanding in both India and Pakistan of their positions on various bilateral and international matters and are

expected to help in the process of normalisation of relations between the two countries.

Introduction of trains in Andal—Sainthia Section

*68. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to introduce more trains in Andal-Sainthia section;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to line capacity constraints and also movement of coal pilots on Andal-Sainthia section, it has not been found feasible to run any additional passenger train on this section.

Minimum Wages Act made infructuous by piece rate contract

*69. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Statutory Minimum Wage Legislations meant to benefit the lowest rung of workers in the country is for all practical purposes being made infructuous by the use of 'piece-rate contract' all over the country both in industries as well as in the agricultural sectors; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to stop this evasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJLAH): (a) and (b). The Minimum Wages Act contains safeguards for protecting minimum

wages fixed either as "time-rates" or as "peace rate". There may be individual cases of evasion of the provisions of the Act. When such cases come to notice action is taken by the appropriate Government.

Bangladesh's suggestion for a Regional Meeting

*70. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bangladesh President recently suggested for a summit meeting of the countries of the region; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The Bangladesh President has suggested the institution of regional cooperation among the countries in South Asia. To further this purpose he has indicated that one way could be a summit meeting.

(b) In principle, we feel the suggestion has merit. However, if such cooperation is to be fruitful it must be preceded by adequate preparations.

Strikes in Government Hospitals in the Capital

*71. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-
SHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spate of strikes by the Resident Doctors and

other para-medical staff in the three Central Government prestigious Hospitals in the capital for one reason or the other resulting in disturbing the entire hospital services and putting the patients to considerable inconvenience; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to put a stop to this rising indiscipline and improve the hospital services?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) There have been strikes at these hospitals mostly by the Resident Doctors. During these strikes the services in the hospital were partially affected. However, with the help of Senior Doctors and Faculty Members dislocation of work and the inconvenience to the public was minimised. The emergency services were maintained.

(b) Government is seized of the problem and is taking necessary steps in the matter.

समुद्री जहाजों की मरम्मत

*72. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या नौबहन और परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार द्वारा जहाजों की मरम्मत के लिए एक योजना बनाई गई है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ग) उस पर अनुमानतः कितना खर्च आएगा ?

नौबहन और परिवहन तथा पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा)

(क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं होता।