

British Grant for Railways

207. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact £30 million British grant for the railways remained unutilised for the last two years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware of rake shortage in the suburban section of Bombay for over a decade; and

(d) if so, the reasons for which the grant is not availed of for that purpose and also for increasing the frequency and easing the traffic overcrowding in trains which is a daily ordeal on suburban sections of Bombay?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b) Government of U.K. have made available a Grant of £30 million to the Government of India to enable the purchase of certain goods and services in the United Kingdom for the railway sector in India under an Agreement signed between the two Governments on 19th February 1983. The Grant is accordingly being utilised to meet the cost of goods/services as and when they are procured from U. K. So far £3.3 million have been utilised out of this Grant.

(c) Yes.

(d) The rakes for the suburban services on Bombay Sector are manufactured indigenously and are not procured from U. K. Hence the Grant cannot be availed of for this purpose.

Railway Projects in Foreign Countries

208. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects undertaken by the Railways in foreign countries;

(b) the number of labourers required for each project;

(c) whether Railways are engaging and selecting Indian labourers direct for such project; and

(d) what is the specific criterion laid down for sending Indian labourers for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) Consultancy and Construction projects have been undertaken, by the public undertakings under the Ministry of Railways viz: Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. (RITES) and Indian Railway Construction co. Ltd. (IRCON) in countries like Nigeria, Iraq, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Ghana, Jordan, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Sudan etc.

(b) RITES do not normally engage labour. IRCON has engaged nearly 350 skilled and unskilled Indian labour from among serving on the Railways for projects in Iraq, Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

(c) Labour where required is recruited directly by the Undertaking concerned.

(d) Recruitment is made on the basis of job requirement in accordance with individual project, i

New Delhi Railway Station

209. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any scheme for the facelift and future expansion of the New Delhi Railway Station; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b) There is no immediate proposal for expansion

of the New Delhi Station. Master Plan, however, does envisage a new station building on the 2nd entry from Thompson road side. As regards facelifing of the present station building on the Chelmsford Road side, minor additions and alterations have been taken up such as improvement of circulating area, extension of the second class passenger waiting hall with provision of seating arrangements, snack bars etc. and provision of a modern base kitchen.

Supply of rice to Karnataka

210. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the quantity of rice allotted and released to Karnataka during the last three years, month-wise break-up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): A statement showing allotment and offtake of rice from the Central Pool in respect of Karnataka for the years 1981 to 1983, monthwise, is attached. *See* Appendix CXXVIII, Annexure No. 8).

Solution of Cauvery Water Dispute

211. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any move to hold the discussion on Cauvery water dispute with the riparian States;

(b) if so, by when the discussion is expected;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the inordinate delay shown in this vital issue and bring an early settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (d) A number of meetings at official and Chief Ministers' level have been convened by the Central Government in the past to settle the dispute over the use and development of Cauvery Waters amongst the basin States by negotiations, the last meeting held at Chief Ministers' level on 05.04.1983. In this meeting, the Chief Minister, Karnataka wanted to have bilateral discussions with the Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu to sort out the outstanding differences on sharing of Cauvery Waters. The meeting was, prorogued to facilitate this and it was decided that bilateral discussions should not take unduly long time in the over-all interest so that the next meeting at Chief Ministers' level could be resumed after about four months. The States of Karnataka and Tamilnadu are, however, still in the process of exchanging technical data on Cauvery basin. Both the Chief Ministers, have been requested by the Central Government to conclude the bilateral talks as early as possible so that a meeting of all the Chief Ministers concerned could be convened early to settle the dispute.

Financial assistance for Teesta Project

212. SHRI KALYAN ROY:
SHRI LADLI MOHAN
NIGAM:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received an urgent request from the West Bengal Government for financial assistance to complete the Teesta Project;

(b) if so, when and what action the Central Government have taken thereon;

(c) when the Project started and how long it will take to complete it;