

5. S.C. Pruthi, Train Supdt./New Delhi.

Action under Discipline and Appeal Rules (D&AR) is under process. Termination or other punishment can only be considered after finalisation of DAR enquiry proceedings on merit of each case.

सुपरफास्ट मेल / एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियां चलाया जाना

*407. श्री अजीत जोगी:

श्री एस० हसत सुरजेवाला:

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:—

(क) क्या देश में सुपरफास्ट मेल / एक्सप्रेस रेलगाड़ियां चलाए जाने पर अधिक बल दिया जा रहा है;

(ख) वर्तमान स्थिति के अनुसार दोनों तरह की रेलगाड़ियों से संबंधित तुलनात्मक आंकड़े क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या राजधानी एक्सप्रेस की तुलना में सुपरफास्ट मेल / एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों की मांग अधिक है क्योंकि इनसे अधिक यात्रियों की जरूरतें पूरी होती हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इन रेलगाड़ियों के संबंध में कोई अन्य योजना तैयार की है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) से (घ) राजधानी तथा सुपरफास्ट मेल एक्सप्रेस दोनों प्रकार की गाड़ियां चलाने के लिए जोरदार मांग है। इस समय 10 जोड़ी राजधानी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियां तथा 52 जोड़ी सुपरफास्ट गाड़ियां मौजूद हैं। भारतीय रेलों पर गाड़ियां चलाना, जिनमें सुपरफास्ट / राजधानी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियां शामिल हैं, एक सतत प्रक्रिया है जो परिचालनिक व्यावहारिकता, यातायात के औचित्य तथा संसाधनों की उपलब्धता पर निर्भर करता है।

Report of Expert Group on Petrochemicals

*408. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Group on Petrochemicals under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rakesh Mohan has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of its recommendations;

(c) whether this report is available for sale or for reference purpose;

(d) if so, the place where it is available and the price thereof and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Important recommendations of the Expert Group on Petrochemicals under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rakesh Mohan are:

—Import duties should be levied based on the stage of.

—Value addition, mildly increasing, duty along the value chain with higher duties on finished products, but with an overall compressed tariff structure.

Import duties on polymers and chemicals should be reduced to 25% and 30% respectively by 1997-98

—Import duties on fibre intermediates should be brought down to 25% in terminal year i.e. 1997-98.

—Import duties on fibre should be brought down to 30% in the terminal year i.e. 1997-98.-

—Import duties on building blocks should be brought down to 10%, intermediate building blocks to 15% and feedstocks to zero percent by 1997-98.

—In respect of intermediates like xylenes, paraffins and cyclohexane, duty rate should be brought down to 20% in the terminal year.

—Exercise duty rates should be brought down between 0% to 23% in a phased manner.

—Anti-dumping measures should be strengthened and specific anti-

dumping legislation is recommended in this regard.

- Countervailing duties (CVD) should take into account incidences of unusually high export subsidies on exports in these countries and sales tax and other domestic indirect taxes.
- A switch to the value added tax (VAT) as an encompassing indirect tax is recommended.

Recommendations of the Expert Group of tariff reduction are subject to the following conditions:

- Domestic feed stocks must be available at international prices.
- Capital goods duty should be brought down to 10%.
- Import duty in catalysts, chemicals and additives used as consumables by the industry should be at 10%.
- CVD should neutralise the disadvantage of local taxes and duties on domestic production. Sales tax, turn-over tax, purchase tax, surcharge on sales tax should be compensated by their inclusion in the CVD.

—A gradual and phased reduction in the import duty instead of drastic reduction is essential in view of the current worldwide over-ought capacity leading to softness of prices.

—The lowering of tariffs systems sensitive to respond to the volatile international prices should be built in.

—To stimulate domestic demand and to conserve scarce materials like wood, leather and metals local excise duties should be reduced on petrochemicals substitutes of these items in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) The Report is available for sale and can be purchased from Petrochemicals Data Service, C 873—876, Sector I, Petrochemicals Township,

5153/RS/F—2-A

Vadodara—391345. Price is Rs. 22,000/-per set.

(e) Does not arise.

Recommendatory Letters from M.Ps. for Rail Bookings

*409. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendatory letters from M.Ps. for the release of berth/seats from the Emergency Quota are not being given due consideration;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to give priority to the recommendations from the M.Ps.; and

(d) the number of such requests received from the M.Ps. by Government in the last 12 months and number of requests rejected month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAY (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) to (d) Requests received from the Members of Parliament for release of berths/seats out of Emergency Quota for their own journeys and in favour of their family members are mostly honoured.

Requests of Members of Parliament for allotting berths/seats from Emergency Quota for journey of others are considered on merit depending on factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on Government duty, bereavement in the family, sickness etc.

Since a large number of requests are received from various quarters and are dealt with on day-to-day basis, it is not feasible to accommodate all such requests.

No statistics of requests received from various quarters including M.Ps. are being maintained.