

Chairman, Railway Reforms Commission is in favour of IAS personnel taking over as Secretary in the Ministry of Railways; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government propose to take in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) Yes—through the columns of the Business World. The report of the Railway Reforms Committee on the organisational structure of Railway Board has not been received so far. The question of taking any action in the matter does not arise.

Irrigation Projects in Kerala

2627. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of major Irrigation projects in Kerala pending completion for want of permission for the clearance of forest land from the Central Government;

(b) whether Government are aware that Kallada irrigation project which was started long ago is not progressing for want of clearance of forest land; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA):

(a) Kallada and Idamalayar are the two major irrigation projects of Kerala which involve use and submergence of some forest land. One of the reasons for some delay in the progress of works on these projects is on account of the clearance required under the Forest Conservation Act 1980.

(b) and (c) The slow progress of works on Kallada project has been mainly due to the failure of contracts and re-assigning the agencies, inadequate technical staff, inadequate

funds in the past as also the non-clearance of forest land under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

In regard to clearance of forest land, a request was received from the Government of Kerala in May 1981 on utilise 135 hectares of forest land in Punaloor Forest Division to rehabilitate the 277 families affected by this project. This request was not agreed to as no forest land in principle is ordinarily released for rehabilitation purposes. The Government of Kerala was informed accordingly by the Ministry of Agriculture in September, 1981. No request for further reconsideration of the matter has been received from the State Government.

Employees working in Fruit Juice Bottling Plant of Modern Food Industries

2628. SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees category-wise, working in Fruit Juice Bottling Plant (Rasika) of the Modern Food Industries Ltd., Delhi as on 1st April, 1982;

(b) whether it is a fact that services of some of the employees of the Bottling Plant have been taken over by the Modern Food Industries on a higher scale of pay while other employees doing the same nature of work are getting lesser emoluments, if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for the discrimination; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) The number of employees working in the Fruit Juice Bottling Plant of the Modern Food Industries (India) Limited as on 1st April, 1982 was 39—2 in Group 'A', 3 in Group 'B', 13 in Group 'C' and 21 in Group 'D'.