

(d) His probation period was extended from time to time; no other action was considered necessary at that time.

Construction of second general cargo berth at Paradip Port in Orissa

1050. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress in the construction of second general cargo berth at Paradip port in Orissa is going on in accordance with the schedule;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any escalation is anticipated in the original estimates of Rs. 4.03 crores; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The work of construction of 2nd general cargo berth was awarded to M/s. Gammon Nirman in November, 1979. The scheduled completion date is 15-5-82. The pile foundation work for the cargo berth is in progress. There is a slight setback in the progress because of non-availability of steel and good quality cement for the work.

(c) and (d) The original estimate of Rs. 403 00 lakhs sanctioned in July, 1978 has already been updated and a revised cost estimate of Rs. 725.58 lakhs has been sanctioned.

Running of new train from New Delhi to Jammu Tawi

1051. SHRI BHABANI CHARAN PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present no train starts from New Delhi for Pathankot/Jammu Tawi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to heavy rush of passengers from New Delhi to Pathankot/Jammu Tawi,

it is difficult to get reservation for Pathankot/Jammu Tawi on the trains coming from other places; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to start a new train from New Delhi to Pathankot/Jammu Tawi, and if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Yes. However, there are three daily trains viz. 177/178 Pune-Jammu Tawi Jhelum Express, 33/34 Delhi-Jammu Tawi Kashmir Mail and 17/18 Madras-Jammu Tawi Express available for passengers from Delhi and New Delhi for Jammu Tawi. Two sectional coaches, viz. one AC second sleeper and a second sleeper are also attached to 177 Jhelum Express from New Delhi. Besides, quotas of accommodation have also been earmarked in this train and in 17 Janata Express for Delhi/New Delhi passengers going towards Jammu. Difficulty in reservation is felt by passengers during seasonal spurt of traffic.

(c) During seasonal spurt in traffic like summer and festival season, special trains are run between New Delhi and Jammu Tawi. Introduction of an additional train as a regular measure is not operationally feasible due to certain restricted sections en route and also limited terminal facilities at Jammu Tawi and New Delhi.

Congestion in major ports

1052. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to ease the congestion in the major ports in the country and the results achieved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): In order to ease congestion at some of the major ports and to utilise fully