

with the Onam festival. The Productivity Linked Bonus is, however, payable only by 31st October in accordance with the agreement arrived at with the Organised Labour Federations by the Railway Ministry.

China's disapproval of Indian claim on McMahon line

*256. SHRI S. KUMARAN:

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA

JHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported claim by China that a historic document discovered recently disproves India's stand that the Simla agreement of 1914 confirms McMahon line as the traditional Sino-Indian border in the eastern sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps Government are taking in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO):

(a) The Government have seen press reports about an interview given by Mr. Wang Bingnan, President of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign countries, in which he is reported to have made such a reference.

(b) The Government, who are fully acquainted with all relevant data on the subject are satisfied that there is no so-called "historic document" which disproves India's stand relating to the alignment of the traditional India-China boundary in the eastern sector.

Damage to Lord Willingdon Vessel at Cochin Port

*257. SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN:

SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING & TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the last date this year prescribed for the completion of in-

tensive maintenance dredging in the Cochin Port;

(b) what is the date on which the dredging Vessel Lord Willingdon of Cochin Port got damaged while doing dredging work in the sea;

(c) what was the total serviceable life of this Vessel;

(d) whether Government have taken any action against the Head of the Mechanical Department of Cochin Port for the mishap of the said dredging Vessel; and

(e) whether Government are aware that the enquiry officer has given an inconspicuous advertisement in a newspaper to inform interested parties to participate in the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):

(a) Maintenance dredging being a continuous process, no date is prescribed for its completion.

(b) The dredger 'Lord Willingdon' sank outside the approach channel of Cochin Port on 21 February, 1978.

(c) The normal service life of a steam dredger is about 30 years. The dredger 'Lord Willingdon', built in 1926, had outlived its normal service life.

(d) the question of taking action against any officer does not arise at this stage since a formal investigation under Section 360 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 by a competent Magistrate is still in progress.

(e) Since the notice informing the interested parties to participate in the investigation has appeared in the press under the directions of the court, it would not be correct to say anything in this matter.