

(c) The fact finding committee appointed to investigate has pin pointed the responsibility for failures and on the advice of Central Vigilance Commission major penalty action has been taken against the concerned staff of Research, Designs & Standards Organisation and the Railway;

(d) Total loss was estimated to be Rs. 2.87 lakhs plus Central Sales Tax. Rectification of defective stores shall, however, reduce the loss from Rs. 2.87 lakhs plus Central Sales Tax to Rs. 1.61 lakhs i.e. the amount required to be incurred on rectification.

Laying of cast iron pipe line by Western Railway

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

(a) whether it is a fact that cast iron pipe line laid by the Western Railway between Kali Dam and Filter House at Dahod Station sometime in March 1975 at a cost of Rs. 11.09 lakhs and with a further expenditure of Rs. 1.58 lakhs incurred for repairs and replacements, is not commissioned and the old mild steel pipe line is still being used;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for putting a new pipe line; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the suppliers of the defective pipes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The new C.I. pipe line was laid since the old M.S. pipe line had suffered corrosion over the period of years in service. Since there were bursts in the new pipeline after its commissioning in March 1975, necessary repairs had to be undertaken. The repaired pipeline has been tested and found to be in working order. The old pipeline is being retained in view of the latest requirements of water and also as an alternative during emergencies.

(c) No action has been taken. The pipes were duly inspected and certified by the DGS&D.

Indo-Soviet Cooperation

307. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of follow-up action taken in the various fields of Indo-Soviet cooperation during the last six months;

(b) to what extent Government have been benefited by such co-operation during that period; and

(c) what steps have been taken to further strengthen the cooperation between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) During the 5th Session of the Indo-USSR Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Co-operation held in June, 1979, in Moscow, it was agreed that specific working programmes for cooperation in the fields of light industry, food, pulp and paper, drugs, building materials industries, geology, irrigation and in other fields stipulated in the Long-Term Programme of Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical co-operation signed in March 1979 would be prepared in 1979-80. In pursuance of this decision, during the first six months of 1980, specific working programmes in the fields of irrigation, electronics, machine building, pulp and paper, drugs and pharmaceuticals and agriculture have been drawn up.

(b) These specific programmes, which are mainly in the non-traditional fields of cooperation between India and the USSR, are expected to give a new impetus to the development of these industries in India and also lead to larger exports of non-traditional goods from India to the USSR.

(c) The Long-Term Programme of Economic Cooperation with the USSR, which spans a period of 10-15 years