

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a)

Month	No of wagons loaded	
	1977-78	1978-79
April	11	8
May	6	12
June	6	11
July	10	19
August	10	20
September	25	8
October	26	5
November	17	13
December	19	15
January	36	6
February	24	6
March	20	9
	[upto 10th March]	

(b) Due to very heavy congestion of loaded stock on N.F. Railway and to avoid further stagnation of wagons there, loading of traffic to N.F. Railway had to be regulated and booking from Northern Railway remained restricted for 18 days in December '78, 26 days in January '79 and 24 days in February '79.]

Removal or conversion of railway level crossing in Siliguri

1666. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the people of Siliguri urging Government to remove or convert the railway level crossing at the heart of Siliguri town near Siliguri Road Station which is causing great inconvenience to a large number of people due to total dislocation of road traffic; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) A proposal for construction of a road over-bridge at Siliguri is under

joint consideration of the Railway and the West Bengal State Government.

Study conducted in and around Bangalore to deal with the commuter type of passenger-traffic

1667. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study of the existing rail configuration survey in and around Bangalore to deal with the commuter type of passenger traffic;

(b) if so, with what results;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide a Mass Rapid Transit system by railways for Bangalore like that for Bombay, Calcutta and Madras keeping in view of population of the city; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (c) No.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

'Kara' as an offensive weapon in U.K.

1668. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of U. K. is interfering with the religious sentiments of the Indians living in that country;

(b) whether recently 'kara' a religious symbol of Sikhs has been declared as an offensive weapon; and

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the British authorities and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to the information received from the British Government, though 'Kara' has not been declared as such as offensive weapon but in a recent case, a Sikh youth living in Britain was charged under the British Law with the using of a metal bangle of 'kara' as an offensive weapon in a public place. The High Commission of India, London and the Ministry of External Affairs have pointed out to the British authorities in London and in New Delhi respectively that 'kara' is a religious symbol for Sikhs and cannot be described as an offensive weapon. The case is pending trial. The person is at present on bail pending jury trial before a Crown Court.

Requirement of visa to citizens of Commonwealth Countries

1669. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that citizens of Commonwealth countries do not require visa for entry into Commonwealth countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that the British Government has been harassing the Indian citizens at the immigration office in London;

(c) if so, what remedial measures have been taken by Government in the matter; and

(d) whether Government propose to introduce similar measures for the citizens of U.K.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU):

(a) Regulations about entry of foreigners including citizens of Commonwealth countries vary from country to country.

(b) to (d) Some cases have come to notice in which Indian citizens have complained of harassment by the British immigration authorities at the time of their entry into the U.K. Gov-

ernment is alive to the problems of Indian visitors to the U.K. and have been taking up the matter with the British Government from time to time including specific complaints where details are furnished.

Government have no proposal to introduce visa requirements for U.K. Citizens coming to India.

Lethium machine lying idle in the A.I.I.M.S., Delhi

1670. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Lethium machine for psycho-treatment in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Cartarisation machine in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital are out of order for a long time; and

(b) if so, what is the amount involved in the equipment lying idle/out of order and the steps taken to make full use of this equipment?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI RAY): (a) and (b) There is no Lethium machine for psycho-treatment in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. As regards the Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, there are four cautery machines in the operation theatre, and all are in working order. There is yet another in the Gynee Department which is also in working order. Two machines of the Dermatology Department are obsolete. These cost Rs. 8000 each. M/s. Philips India Ltd., and Imperial Surgical Co., were contracted to undertake their repairs but due to the non-availability of spares, the defects could not be rectified.

Strifles/lockouts in industries

1671. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND