

ment of the dockyard by mid April, 1979. The proposal will be processed expeditiously as soon as the final report of the Tata Consultants has become available.

(b) It is a fact that the scheme has not been sanctioned so far.

(c) Circumstances under which the scheme could not be sanctioned have been explained against (a) above. Since the scheme has not so far been sanctioned, the question of taking action against any officer for delay in its implementation does not arise.

Replacements of local employees in Indian Embassy at Washington

1606. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that services of quite a few local employees with several years of service in the Indian Embassy, Washington, have recently been dispensed with;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the number of persons whose services have been dispensed with and what are the particulars of their replacements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) to (c) No Sir. During the last one year, the services of only one local employee with several years' service in the Embassy of India, Washington, were terminated as the employee failed to report on duty after expiry of long leave.

A Junior Clerk/Typist working in the Embassy since 7th November 1977 against a temporary vacancy has been adjusted against the resulting vacancy.

Arunachal Express

1607. SHRI RATAN TAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the inconvenience is caused to the passengers due to the late arrival and departure of the Arunachal Express running between Alipurduar in West Bengal and Murkongselek in Arunachal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is irregularly supply of water and electricity in the same trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) The punctuality performance of 9 Up/10 Dn Arunachal Fast Passenger has not been satisfactory since introduction of the new timings from 1-11-78 which had to be introduced in order to provide connection with Tinsukia Mail at New Bongaigaon in consequence of the revision in the times schedule of the BG Tinsukia Mail.

(b) There are no complaints regarding supply of water for which adequate facilities exist at all the watering stations. Difficulties are however being felt in maintaining adequate lights and fans as the large number of halts and the slow speed of this train is not conducive to adequate charge being retained in the batteries of the self generating coaches while on run.

(c) With the revision of the time schedule of BG Tinsukia Mail from 1-4-79 the timings of 9 Up/10 Dn Arunachal Fast Passenger trains are also being revised which is expected to improve the punctuality performance of this train substantially.