

Editor, 'Bhartiya Rail' the Hindi version of the 'Indian Railways'. Pending selection on regular basis, as per the recruitment rules already approved by the Union Public Service Commission, the same officer is holding the upgraded post on an *ad-hoc* basis.

(c) The incumbent of the post of Editor, Indian Railways, continues to hold full charge of the post and it has been found administratively expedient to utilise his services elsewhere also.

#### **Transportation of coal by shipping companies**

343. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shipping companies had to suffer huge losses in recent months in coastal carriage of loco coal on account of indifference shown by railway and coalfields authorities; and

(b) what is Government's policy regarding transportation of coal by coastal shipping from east coast ports to southern consuming centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) No, Sir. There were however, some incident of delay to ships carrying coal on account of recent cyclone, which caused flooding of coal-mines and disruption of railway links between coalfields and Calcutta and Haldia Ports.

(b) The present policy of Government is that as and when the consumers desire to lift coal from Calcutta/Haldia to any Southern/West Coast Port, they have to place indents with the Coal Controller, who forwards such indents to DG (Shipping) for allotment of ships to various consumers. The DG Shipping convenes a Coordination Committee meeting for this purpose every month. Representatives of the Indian Coastal Conference, Shipping Companies, Railway, Port Trusts, Coal India and

the concerned industrial consumers attend this meeting.

#### **Air and rail journeys performed by the Minister, Minister of State, Chairman and Members of Railway Board**

344. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of air-journeys and rail-journeys along with approximate kilometrage undertaken by him, the Minister of State for Railways and Chairman and other Members of the Railway Board during 1978; and

(b) what is the amount of air-travel expenditure incurred by the two Ministers and Railway Board officials during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Conference of Non-aligned Co-ordination Bureau**

345. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the topics discussed at the conference of Non-aligned Co-ordination Bureau recently held at Maputo and what is its outcome;

(b) the details of the recommendations made by the Bureau to help the liberation movements in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa; and

(c) the stand taken by the Indian delegation at the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA