

(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b) According to the information made available by the Delhi Administration which is the appropriate Government in this case under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the employees of National Herald, New Delhi have resorted to tool/pen down strike from March 10, 1979 in support of their main demands relating to payment of wages on time and arrears of interim relief, reinstatement of suspended employees etc.

(c) and (d) Delhi Administration are seized of the matter. They have already held discussions with the parties on March 12 and 13, 1979 and further discussions are to be held by them shortly in an effort to resolve the disputed issues.

Reduction in staff in railway workshop, Dohad

2141. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any reduction in staff or the size of the railway workshop at Dohad consequent on the use of diesel engines instead of steam engines;

(b) whether it is a fact that this workshop provides employment to a large section of tribal people;

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to increase the employment of tribal people of the area in this workshop; and

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

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

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d) As per extent policy of the Government, every effort is made to employ members of Scheduled Tribes in the Workshop to the required extent through the Railway Service Commission in respect of Class III services and through the Employment Exchange or by direct recruitment in respect of Class IV services.

Proposals for Conversion of State Highways to National Highways

2142. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Government have submitted proposals for conversion of some of the State Highways into National Highways;

(b) if so, what are the details of these proposals along with dates on which the same were received by the Central Government; and

(c) what are the reasons for not considering these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) to c) A statement is enclosed.