

stressing the need for revolutionary changes in law to make the legal system meet the growing aspirations of the people; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) Government has seen certain press reports regarding the speech in question. I have also heard the speech.

(b) Government would take into account the views expressed in the speech in formulating and implementing the policy.

#### Rail link between India and Europe

\*165. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:  
SHRI S. W. DHABE:  
SHRI BAPURAOJI MAROT.  
RAO JI DESHMUKH:  
SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA:  
SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what decisions were taken at the meeting of the Inter-Governmental Railway Group of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) held recently at Bangkok;

(b) whether any proposal to connect India with Europe by rail through Pakistan had been approved at that meeting; and

(c) if so, what is Government of India's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

The Inter-Governmental Railway Group of ESCAP, at their meeting held at Bangkok on 12th June 1978, considered various issues connected with the promotion of economic and

technical co-operation among developing countries, sharing of knowledge of railway research and new railway techniques. The Group, being a recommendatory body of ESCAP, by its nature and functioning, made recommendations to ESCAP, on various aspects of railway operations.

The need for a Trans-Asian Railway link from Bangkok to Istanbul was accepted by member countries of ESCAP some years ago. The Group, in their last meeting deliberated on technological problems relating to compatibility of braking systems, couplers, gauges, and moving dimensions for achieving inter-regional traffic movement on the proposed multi-gauge system, when the missing links<sup>1</sup> are completed. The Group recommended that Unit-trains with compatible standards for essential equipments such as couplers and brakes should be considered for the present. The Group also noted the request of Pakistan to have the Sibi-Quetta section, particularly on the Bolar Pass section, up-graded, and recommended that this should be reflected in the programme of work and priorities, since the up-grading of this section would remove restrictions which were encountered at present in the main axis route of the Trans-Asian Railway from Pakistan to Iran.

The proposal for Trans-Asian rail link has the full support of the Government of India.

#### A.C. Coaches

\*166. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the airconditioned coaches designed and built in the recent past need frequent repairs and have to be substituted by old AC coaches; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for frequent repairs to the newly designed A.C. coaches?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) From the Mechanical Design angle, there is no difference in the various classes of coaches as they are mostly either IRS or ICF coaches. No difficulties have been experienced on design account.

Electrically, the airconditioned coaches, designed and built in the recent past excluding First Class full air-conditioned coaches, are giving satisfactory service but for some teething troubles on the recently Indigenised equipment. New First Class full air-conditioned coaches have, however, been giving trouble and have had to be substituted on occasions by old AC coaches.

(b) The new First Class full air-conditioned coaches, built in the recent past have been giving trouble mainly on account of defects in the alternator driving system through the hypoid gear box and the generating equipment. Remedial measures have been identified and are being implemented in collaboration with the equipment manufacturers.

**Grant of contract of tea stalls to vendors**

\*167. SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA:  
PROF. N M KAMBLE;  
SHRISHYAMLAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's policy in regard to giving contracts for running stalls for tea and snacks to vendors on the Central Railway;

(b) whether any quota has been fixed for allotment of these stalls to vendors belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Statement**

(a) For the award of vending/catering contracts, applications are invited through press notifications and notices displayed at conspicuous places at Railway Stations. The applications are then scrutinised by a Screening Committee consisting of two or more officers, taking into consideration, the suitability, experience, financial standing, etc. of the candidates. The Screening Committee recommends suitable candidates on merit to the competent authority, who after taking into consideration the recommendation of the Screening Committee awards the contract to the most eligible candidate complying with the requirements. These rules apply to all the Railways including Central Railway.

(b) and (c) No percentage has been fixed.

Under the existing rules, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates get preference in catering/vending contracts.

Small catering/vending contracts upto half a unit are allotted to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates straightway if they are found capable of doing the work. For catering/vending contracts bigger than half a unit, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates are given first preference, other things being equal.

**Occupation of vacant space between tracks at New Delhi Railway Station**

\*168. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:  
SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY:  
SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:  
SHRI BUDDHA PRIYA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people go to the