

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b) Ye's Sir. The Railways have sent experts to various countries such as Iran, Nigeria, Zambia and Ghana either on the request of the Government "concerned or through the United Nations. Currently there are two requests—one from the Government of Iraq for undertaking the Techno-Economic feasibility study for a Railway Project in Iraq and the other from the Government of Guinea for the visit of an Indian Railway Team to assess the requirements of coaches, wagons and locomotives of that country.

CENTRAL AID TO MYSORE STATE IRRIGATION PROJECTS

1234. SHRI H. S. NARASIAH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Mysore has sought Central aid for the three irrigation projects namely (i) Upper Krishna (ii) Malaprabha and (iii) Ghataprabha,

(b) whether the country is estimated to become self-sufficient in vegetable oils and cotton with the completion of these projects, and

(c) the amount of aid the centre has promised to Mysore Government for completion of these projects ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BAI NATH KUREEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The three projects are *inter alia* intended to irrigate 73,500 acres under oilseeds and 72,250 acres under cotton. As a result of such irrigation, the State Government expect that the production of oilseeds in the State will increase by 75,470 tons and that of cotton by 45,156 tons.

(c) The request of the Mysore Government is being looked into.

FALL IN PASSENGER TRAFFIC IN ANDHRA DUE TO AGITATION

1235. SHRI H. S. NARASIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a fall in passenger traffic in the Andhra region due to agitation against the Mulki Rules, if so, to what extent;

(b) the number of trains that have been cancelled due to agitation and how many trains are running behind the scheduled time; and

(c) whether any damage has been caused to Railway equipment, if so, the extent of damage ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes Sir. There has been a fall in passenger traffic not only in Andhra Region but also in other areas as well. It is difficult to assess the exact loss in passenger traffic in Andhra Region only. Railways have lost about Rs. 57.5 lakhs as a result of fall in passenger traffic due to "Mulki Rule" agitation.

(b) About 1850 trains were cancelled from 14-11-72 to 28-11-72. Roughly over 200 mail and express trains and over 300 passenger trains ran behind schedule.

(c) Yes Sir. The damage caused to Railway equipment and construction is estimated at Rs. 48 lakhs.

SURVEY FOR CIRCULAR RAILWAY FOR BANGALORE

1236. SHRI H. S. NARASIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any preliminary survey has been conducted for the construction of a circular Railway for the city of Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

KERALA HIGH COURT BENCH AT TRIVANDRUM

1237. SHRI G. GOPINATHAN NAIR : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Kerala Government for opening of a bench of the Kerala High Court at Trivandrum;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?