

[[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) During the period 1st January, 1971 to 31st October, 1971, six train accidents, i.e. five derailments and one case of fire in a train, occurred within a distance of 240 kms. from Katni Junction on Katni-Bina, Katni-Allahabad and Katni-Itarsi sections.

(b) All these accidents have been inquired into thoroughly and causes determined;

(c) The cost of damage to railway property involved in these accidents has been estimated at approximately Rs. 2,79,296.

GENERAL ELECTIONS IN WEST BENGAL

25. SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE/विधि और न्याय मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision recently to hold general elections in West Bengal; and

(b) is so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE/विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

ELECTIONS TO STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES IN 1972

26. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA:
SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN:

SHRI B. N. MANDAL:

SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA:
SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN:

† [] English translation.

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE/विधि और न्याय मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether election to different State Legislative Assemblies are going to be held in 1972 as scheduled; if so, the names of such States;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons for postponing them;

(c) whether in order to check malpractices in these elections Governments propose to put a ceiling on election expenses by individuals and by political parties and to provide for a single day poll;

(d) if so, the broad features of the proposal; and

(e) what other improvements, if any, are proposed to be made in these elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE/विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY): (a) In the absence of any unforeseen contingency warranting the postponement elections in the following States/Union Territory will be held as scheduled:

- (1) Andhra Pradesh
- (2) Assam
- (3) Himachal Pradesh
- (4) Jammu & Kashmir
- (5) Madhya Pradesh
- (6) Maharashtra
- (7) Rajasthan
- (8) Goa, Daman & Diu.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The entire question relating to amendments to Election Law is at present under consideration by a Joint Committee of the Houses of Parliament constituted for the purpose. However,

it may be pointed out that even as at present, the ceiling on election expenses that can be incurred by an individual candidate is covered by the provisions of rule 90 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961; and as regards the provision for a single day poll, the Election Commission always endeavours to take the poll on a single day, wherever it is possible to do so.

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE FREQUENCY OF RAJDHANI EXPRESS BETWEEN NEW DELHI AND HOWRAH

27. SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्री be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the frequency of the Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Howrah in view of the heavy demand for accommodation in this train?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : No. Only one rake is available for this service, hence it is not possible to operate more trips between New Delhi and Howrah.

ISSUE OF IMPORT LICENCES

28. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to refer to the reply to starred Question No. 117 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd July, 1971 and state what further steps have been taken by Government for the quick disposal of applications for import licences?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्री (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : Powers have been delegated to the regional licensing authorities to dispose of applications for advance import licences to registered exporters subject to certain conditions, without reference to the Headquarters office, where the value of the licence does not exceed Rs. 5.0 lakhs. A check-sheet has been circulated through the State Directors of Industries for the guidance

of the existing small scale industrial units to help them in making applications for licences complete in all respects. In August 1971, a seminar was organised at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in which the Directors of Industries and the licensing authorities participated, to discuss problems pertaining to import licensing, to enable them to understand the policies and the procedures correctly to avoid delays in the disposal of applications.

TAKE OVER OF JUTE INDUSTRY

29. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to take over the jute industry; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्री (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) :

(a) and (b) In terms of the Industrial Policy Resolution, development of jute industry is left to the private sector. Government have at present no proposal to take over the jute industry

CASES PENDING IN CALCUTTA HIGH COURT

30. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE/विधि और न्याय मंत्री be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 258 in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th June, 1971 and state :

(a) whether Government are aware that inspite of the increase in the number of judges of the Calcutta High Court, arrear of pending cases is still the highest in the country and are accumulating at a faster rate;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending till September, 1971;

(c) whether Government are aware that this state of affairs has created serious discontent among public;