

USE OF DIESEL ENGINES IN GUJARAT

43. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : Will (he Minister of RAILWAYS he pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that diesel engines are not used in Gujarat where oil is available in abundance; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal under consideration to use diesel engines instead of steam engines to avoid the heavy expenditure for the transportation of coal all the way from Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA): (a) No. (b) Does not arise.

DIRECT PASSENGER TRAIN BETWEEN BOMBAY CENTRAL AND GANDHIDHAM

44. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from the Bombay Grain Dealers' Association asking for the direct running of a passenger train from Bombay Central to Gandhidham so as to obviate the hardships faced by the passengers from Gandhidham in having to change trains several times ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) : Yes. The facility of a direct train between Bombay Central and Gandhidham has been provided by extending 15Dn/16Up Saurashtra Express to/from Gandhidham with effect from 31-12-1969. From the same date, 119Dn/120Up Viramgam-Halvad Passenger trains, which connect 5Dn/6Up Bombay Central Saurashtra Mails at Viramgam, have also been extended to/from Gandhidham for the convenience of passengers between Bombay and Gandhidham.

SEEKING AID OF A GOVERNMENT SERVANT

45. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : SHRI G. P. SOMASUNDARAM : SHRI KANCHI KALYANASUNDARAM : SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASAM :

Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the Representation of the People Act to include therein that seeking aid of any Government

servant, whether gazetted or non-gazetted, will be corrupt practice; and

(b) if so, when such an amendment is likely to be made ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) : (a) and (b) A proposal in this behalf has been received from the Election Commission and it is being examined by the Government.

DECLINE IN RAILWAY EARNINGS THROUGH FREIGHT TRAFFIC

46. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any gross decline in railway earnings through freight traffic during the past three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps were taken by Government to avert such a situation ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) : (a) No; in fact, the actual freight traffic earnings during the quarter ending 31st December, 1969 have registered an increase, both as compared to the preceding quarter (ending 30th September, 1969) and the corresponding quarter of the previous year (ending 31st December, 1968).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD

47. SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL : SHRI K. C. PANDA :

Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether appointment to the post of Secretary, Central Social Welfare Board, is made by the Government of India;

(b) whether Government have framed any rules for recruitment to this post; if so, whether a copy thereof will be laid on the table of the House; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and when such rules are likely to be framed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA) : (c) Yes, Sir.