

the Central Government in different States including Kerala during the Fourth Five Year Plan period and the amounts to be spent on them are indicated in the book 'Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74)—Draft' brought out by the Planning Commission which has been placed before the Rajya Sabha.

680. [Transferred to the 16//; May, 1969.]

INTRODUCTION OF LUNCH PACKETS ON THE RAILWAYS

681. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lunch packets have recently been introduced by the Railway Catering on some Railways;

(b) if so, whether the project has been well received by the railway passengers; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to popularise the project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) There has been both favourable and unfavourable reaction.

(c) The reasons for the unfavourable reaction wherever encountered are ascertained and remedial measures are taken so that the popularity of these lunch packets may improve.

BANASKANTHA CONSTITUENCY

682. SHRI B. D. KHOBARA-GADE:

SHRI G. BARBORA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Himmat Singh an Independent Candidate in Banaskantha Constituency (Gujarat) by-election to Lok Sabha, has sent a telegram recently to the Chief Election Commissioner in re-

gard to the mal and corrupt practices being indulged and intimidation being resorted to on a 'Large-Scale' by his rivals and Opponents;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has been urged in the same telegram to send an authorised representative to Banaskantha so as to ensure 'Free and Fair Election' for the Lok Sabha Seat:

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the details of the telegram and the action taken by Election Commissioner in the matter; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that many complaints were being made in the various public meetings of such types by other prominent persons in Gujarat: if so, the details and the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam.

(c) A copy of telegram received from Shri Himmathsinh is at Annexure "A". (See below) The same was forwarded to Chief Electoral Officer, Gujarat to make an immediate enquiry and take appropriate action.

(d) Shri B. K. Gadhvi, Election Agent for Shri Himmathsinh in his letter dated 2-4-1969 complained regarding misuse of Government machinery supporting a candidate of ruling party. Maulana Ishaq Sambhali sent a telegram to Election Commission alleging large scale use of money, intimidation and corrupt practice by Congress and Swatantra parties.

The complaints from Shri B. K. Gadhvi were based on presumptions and apprehensions and there were no specific matters on which action could be taken by the Election Commission.

The allegations made by Maulana Ishaq Sambhali are vague and indefinite and no action is possible.

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I invite your attention to corrupt practice and intimidation resorted to on large scale in Bansakantha Lok Sabha bye election which is also being extensively reported especially in Gujarat Newspapers. Hope your authorised representative here have appraised of these malpractices and corruption. Hope you will take necessary prompt action in time to ensure fair free just election.

—HIMATSINH

**FACILITIES ENJOYED BY RETIRED
RAILWAY EMPLOYEES**

683. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain categories of railway employees continue to enjoy certain facilities even after their retirement from service; and

(b) if so, what are the categories of such employees and the facilities enjoyed by them?'

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) All retired railway employees who were eligible for passes while in service and had put in minimum years of qualifying railway service are granted post-retirement passes in accordance with prescribed scales.

(ii) Such employees can also participate in a voluntary scheme of medical attendance and treatment in the nominated Railway hospitals on payment of contributions on a graded basis.

**TAKE-OVER OF RAILWAY LINES UNDER PORT
TRUSTS**

684. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

. (a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for taking over the railway lines which are at present in the possession of various port trusts in the country to bring in line the service conditions of their employees with the employees of the Indian Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

NEWSPRINT FACTORY IN PUBLIC SECTOR

685. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a newsprint factory in the public sector;

(b) if so, the location of the factory; and

(c) the annual capacity of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) to (c) A proposal to set up a newsprint factory in the public sector in the State of Kerala with an annual capacity of 75,000 tonnes is under the consideration of Government.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN BENGAL

686. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY /.. PAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of any move by Foreign and Indian firms in Calcutta to shift their concerns out of Calcutta and West Bengal; and