

the North-Eastern Railway, more short-distance trains would be run. May I know many more trains have been attached to this line to relieve congestion?

Shri Shah Nawas Khan: Eight new trains have been introduced, 10 have been extended and 69 trains have been strengthened.

Air-Service via Gorakhpur

*690. { **Shri Bishwanath Roy:**
Shri Sinhasan Singh:
Shri Mahadeo Prasad:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the air service via Gorakhpur has been stopped, and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (**Shri Humayun Kabir**): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The traffic to and from Gorakhpur has been such that it did not cover even operation costs. The Indian Airlines Corporation did not therefore consider that the continuance of the service was justified.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for connecting Gorakhpur by any other air route?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Not by any other route, but we are examining if it is possible to provide some alternative connecting without providing scheduled services.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: This happened because there used to be only two days service in a week and the travellers who go by plane are mostly business people and nobody will wait for two days so that the plane may take them. So, would not Government try opening a daily service and see whether it runs at a loss or profit?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The average number of passengers was, Delhi to Gorakhpur 105, Lucknow to Gorakhpur 03, Banaras to Gorakhpur, 032, Gorakhpur to Patna 01 and Gorakhpur to Calcutta, 16, and the freight carried never exceeded 13 lbs. Mail was also insignificant. In view of this and the fact that there was great loss on operations, it would not be possible to revive it as a scheduled service. As I stated earlier, I am examining if some other method can be found.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: Is it not a fact that this scarcity of passengers was due to the fact that the route was not well connected with other services?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The route was Delhi, Lucknow, Banaras, Gorakhpur, Patna and Calcutta, and there were connections at the two terminals. As to whether there was any other airline starting from Delhi or Calcutta in connection with this service I would like to ask for notice. But, as far as I can recollect, I think, there were services in Calcutta and Delhi which offered facilities to passengers to travel wherever they wanted, either by evening planes or by night planes.

Fresh Water Supply Scheme in Kerala

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*691. { **Shri V. P. Nayar:**
Shri Kodyan:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the amount of Central aid so far given to the Kerala State for making fresh water available in the coastal tracts of the State?

The Minister of Health (**Shri Karmarkar**): Rs. 10,975 lakhs have so far been paid, as subsidy to the Government of Kerala for the implementation of their rural water supply schemes which include the scheme "Tubewells in Coastal areas".

Shri V. P. Nayar: I find from the Second Plan that the overall allotment is to the tune of Rs. 28 crores.

for rural water supply and Rs 53 crores for urban water supply. Could I have an idea as to the amount which would be given under these two items during the Plan period to the State of Kerala?

Shri Karmarkar: Regarding the Second Five Year Plan, actually, during 1956-57, a sum of Rs 2 875 lakhs has been paid to the Kerala Government. And, during the current year, a Budget provision of Rs 15 crores exists for rural water supply and Kerala's share will be about Rs 4 lakhs.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government are aware of the fact that for the entire coastal belt of Kerala, where the density of population is, perhaps, the highest in India, there is no chance of getting fresh water because of the presence of the system of backwaters also there?

Shri Karmarkar: I appreciate the difficulty mentioned by the hon Member. But that coastal tract has been taken into consideration with all the other areas of the other States also whose problems are also very acute.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Government of India has considered the possibility of using the resources of the fresh water lake at Sasthankotta which can provide fresh water for the coastal area and, if so, whether Government propose to give any special grant in view of the scarcity of fresh water there?

Shri Karmarkar: It is a welcome suggestion but I should like to have notice for answering that question.

Dr. K. B. Menon: May I know whether the experiment of having filtered point wells in the coastal areas has been a success?

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member asks whether experiment of filtered point wells—tubewells—has been tried and proved a success. There are different kinds of tubewells.

Shri Karmarkar: He means something, Sir.

Shri Kediyan: May I know whether Government have any specific plan to provide fresh water supply to the needy areas under the Second Five Year Plan and, if so, what is the provision in the Second Plan for this?

Shri Karmarkar: The States put up particular proposals and we come in by way of aid—in the matter of urban water supply, by way of loans and in the matter of rural areas by way of grants. If my hon friend wants details regarding the proposals that have come in from Kerala and the extent to which we are able to respond, I would like to have notice.

Mr. Speaker: The hon Members must have given more information. Shri Nayar wants to know whether fresh water could be drawn from a particular tank and so on.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The question specifically is about the Central Government's grant for the Kerala State. Still, the hon Minister wants separate notice for it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member asks about the experiment of drawing water from a fresh water tank in Kerala whose name I am not able to pronounce. (Interruptions) Only persons in Kerala could pronounce it. How can he expect Shri Karmarkar who comes from Karnataka to know about it? Therefore, whatever details they want to ask, let them put them in the question itself. Next question.

Aerodrome near Azamgarh

*693. **Shri Kalika Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have received any proposal to construct a temporary aerodrome or runway cement track near the Azamgarh town; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.