

Sabha. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 5.]

(b) Yes.

MATERNITY CENTRES IN PEPUSU

*1691. **Sardar Iqbal Singh** (on behalf of **Shri Ram Krishna**): Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether scheme for opening maternity centres in the State of PEPUSU during the Second Five Year Plan has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) No. Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether the Government of PEPUSU have sent any proposal for opening maternity centres in PEPUSU and if so, the reason why the Government of India have not accepted that proposal?

Shrimati Chanrasekhar: The Government of PEPUSU in their draft Second Five Year Plan have submitted to the Planning Commission a proposal for opening 25 maternity centres at a cost of Rs. 25 lakhs. That proposal is under consideration; it has not been finalised yet.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TOURISM

*1684. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury**: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to arrange for adequate accommodation to foreign tourists to see our colourful National Festivals and Melas; and

(b) if so, the nature of such arrangements?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The dates for the various Festivals and Melas in India are published by our Tourist Offices abroad through newspaper articles or by

having them included in the "calendar of events" published by Travel Magazines in foreign countries. However, foreign tourists rarely come only to see festivals or melas. As and when they intend witnessing these during their stay in India, our Tourist Offices here render all possible assistance by approaching the organisers concerned.

CEMENT CONCRETE SLEEPERS

*1685. **Shri M. R. Krishna**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to utilize cement concrete sleepers in place of iron and wooden sleepers;

(b) the names of the zones that have experimented with the cement concrete sleepers; and

(c) whether there are any other Countries of the world who are using cement concrete sleepers?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir; on an experimental basis in the first instance.

(b) In the past, experiments were carried out on the electrified Section of the *ex-G.I.P.* Railway and the Lalgolaghat Branch of the Eastern Railway.

(c) So far as is known, Belgium, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom are using some cement concrete sleepers.

TRAVELLING GOODS CLERKS

*1686. **Shri U. M. Trivedi**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Travelling Goods Clerks on the Western Railway are not treated as running staff; and

(b) whether it is a fact that their counterparts in North Eastern Railway and certain sectors of the Northern Railway are so treated?