

travel concession is already admissible to all Orthopaedically handicapped persons who suffer from the substantial loss of the functions of the lower extremities and to all blind persons including such disabled defence personnel. There is no proposal to give travel concession to defence personnel suffering from any other disability.

**Railways inability to lay new Lines during Fifth Plan**

2154. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on June 19, 1976, he told the press at Bombay that the Railway would not be able to lay new railway lines during the Fifth Plan because of a lack of financial resources; and

(b) if so, the facts thereabout?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Railway Minister made a general statement during the course of his Press Conference regarding the shortage of resources and the difficulty in taking up the construction of more new railway lines in the 5th Plan except those required for core sector of the economy.

**Conversion of Dhrangadhra-Kuda Salt Siding into Broad Gauge (Western Railway)**

2155. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by him and other Railway authorities, requesting the conversion of the Dhrangadhra-Kuda Salt Siding from metre gauge to broad gauge on Western Railways; if so, decision taken thereon; and

(b) whether any estimate has been made regarding the cost of conversion of this 21 KM siding into broad gauge; if so, how much will it cost?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH). (a) Yes.

(b) According to a rough appraisal the cost of conversion from MG to BG is about Rs. 72.23 lakhs and the proposal is financially not justified.

**Visit of Officials of IDPL to Foreign Countries**

2156 SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently Managing Director, IDPL and some other Government officials visited foreign countries in search of technology for IDPL and HAL;

(b) if so, the results of their visit and foreign exchange incurred on their visit and source which incurred this expenditure; and

(c) for how many bulk drugs IDPL and HAL were able to obtain technology during the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI). (a) An Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) Delegation consisting of their Managing Director and two technical experts visited foreign countries during June-July, 1976 for locating technologies for certain drugs. Secretary (Chemicals and Fertilizers) who attended FAO Commission on Fertilizers meetings in Rome, was also present during Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited Delegation's visit to some of the plants.

(b) Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited Delegation was able to conclude agreement for technical