

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) : Construction of a third foot-over-bridge has already been sanctioned keeping in view the need of passenger traffic. Its construction is expected to be completed by 1987. The existing booking counters are considered adequate.

Water taps have been provided in waiting hall and on platforms. However, provision of a water cooler and water tap near reservation / booking offices is also proposed.

[English]

#### Meningitis Deaths

4975. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some specialists have stated that pollution is also the cause of meningitis fever and if so, the facts in this regard ; and

(b) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government to check the spread of this dangerous disease or prevent pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Government is not aware of any such reports.

(b) The following measures have been taken to check the spread of the disease :—

- (i) Constant surveillance is being maintained especially in the affected and congested localities.
- (ii) Every diagnosis and treatment, even on the basis of presumptive clinical diagnosis is being undertaken.
- (iii) Arrangements for adequate supply of drugs have been made. All the hospitals and dispensaries have stocked sufficient quantities of the required anti-biotics and supportive drugs.

(iv) In order to create a general awareness amongst the public and to impress upon them the need for early diagnosis and treatment the services of AIR and Doordarshan, and also of the press are utilised.

(v) The Indian Medical Association have initiated action to issue instructions to their members regarding proper management of cases.

(vi) The WHO, at our behest, has airlifted Sera for proper typing of the causative organisms.

(vii) The Indian Council of Medical Research has initiated studies on carriers and their management in order to provide information on the epidemiology of the disease for better control.

(viii) It has been decided to vaccinate the identified highrisk grounds.

(ix) The National Institute of Communicable Diseases is looking into the epidemiological aspects of the disease.

#### Plan for providing old bogies as retiring rooms

4976. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways had introduced a plan for providing old bogies as retiring rooms for passengers ;

(b) if so, the total number of accommodation provided showing number of towns served and the occupancy rate ;

(c) whether Government propose to arrange for regular retiring rooms on a massive scale throughout the country for comfort of all classes of passengers (including non-rail travellers) ; and

(d) whether Government consider the use of stationery coaches at terminal stations for over-night stay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (d) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Retiring rooms are provided at stations where there is sufficient demand for the same and their construction is economically viable. There are no plans for undertaking construction of Retiring rooms on a massive scale for use of passengers and non-rail travellers.

#### Encouraging use of Solar Energy

4977. SHRI AMARSINGH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the micro irrigation offers best remedy for agriculture in rural India and if so, what steps Government have taken to utilise this source;

(b) what is the result thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to encourage use of solar energy PV Pumps and also to encourage Research and Development work for irrigation purposes on a war footing?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have been operating a Centrally Sponsored Scheme from 1982-83 for encouraging the use of micro irrigation devices such as Solar Pumps, Windmills, Sprinkler and Drip Systems, Hydrams, Water Turbines and Man and animal operated pumps under which matching subsidies are made available to States. An amount of Rs. 2.69 crores was provided as subsidy under this scheme during the VIth Plan

(c) The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is taking steps to encourage use of solar energy through installation of photo voltaic pumps, demonstration and field trials. The Department is also financing Research & Development

efforts for newer materials and techniques for solar cells fabrication, improved photo voltaic module design and improved system for water pumping and other applications. These programmes are proposed to be intensified further during the VIIth Plan.

#### Import of Coal

4978. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consignment of over 32,000 tonnes of Australian coal has recently been imported in a Greek vessel at the Tuticorin harbour for a thermal power station in Tamil Nadu, and that import licences have been issued for imports of more such consignments of coal;

(b) if so, the details of such import licences issued for import of coal from abroad;

(c) the reasons why coal is allowed to be imported when the Coal India Ltd. is forced to order cuts in production due to huge accumulation of unsold pithead stocks in collieries;

(d) the reasons why the cargo has been imported in a Greek vessel when the Indian Shipping industry is experiencing difficulties due to shortage of cargo; and

(e) the policy of Government regarding import of coal and the vessels to be used for such imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) to (c) Having regard to the constraints in the movement of coal for Tuticorin thermal station, especially via Haldia Port by the sea route, Government have agreed to Tamil Nadu's request in consultation with Department of Coal, to import coal as a one time measure, so that power generation at Tuticorin does not suffer and a buffer stock can be built up. The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has been authorised so far to import one lakh tonnes of coal. The first consignment of 32,772 tonnes arrived at