

Trunk Express has been stopped;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the difficulties faced by people of Karnataka on account of this decision;

(c) whether Government have received representation from Karnataka Government to continue the practice of attaching Bangalore bogies to G. T. Express; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (d). It is a fact that the through coaches running between Bangalore and Delhi by 15/16 G. T. Express had been temporarily suspended from September'84.

With effect from 1.5.85 two coaches have been restored to run between Bangalore and New Delhi by Grand Trunk Express.

Changing the Timings and Extension of Nizamuddin-Mangalore Jayanti Janta Express upto New Delhi

6986. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to change the timings of Jayanti Janta Express which runs from Nizamuddin to Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the Karnataka Government to extend Jayanti Janta Express upto New Delhi Railway Station; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposal to Run H. Nizamuddin Bangalore Express bi-Weekly

6987. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to run the H. Nizamuddin-Bangalore Express bi-weekly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not feasible due to lack of resources like coaches and locomotives.

State Capitals not Connected with New Delhi by daily trains

6988. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the State Capitals for which there are no daily trains from New Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : Trivandrum and Bangalore the State Capitals of Kerala and Karnataka respectively are not served with daily service from New Delhi, while the State Capitals of Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim do not have rail links upto their Capitals towns.

Non-Testing of Medicines Procured from Open Market by Jipmer

6989. SHRI M. MAHALINGAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to Government Medical Store Depots to accept any item in the Depot only after test;

(b) whether the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research while effecting local purchase other than from Government Medical Store Depot accept the item without subjecting to prior tests in their own or outside Laboratories; and

(c) if so, through what means the quality of drugs procured locally other than from Government Medical Store Depot is ensured ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported by the Director, Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research, that the drugs not on V. M. S. list of Medical Stores Depot are purchased from firms licensed by Drugs Controller, Public Sector enterprises and approved firms on Government rate contract on the recommendation of the Expert Drug Committee of the Institute and as such no preliminary testing is done in the Institute or outside.

(c) In case the clinical efficacy of any drug is in doubt the matter is reported to the concerned authorities for taking suitable action.

Health Risks from Metals in Food-stuffs and Water

6990. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the general health risks arising from metals in foodstuffs and water which are being spread through the air also and are harmful for plants, animals as well as human beings and if so, results of any studies conducted so far;

(b) what are the main metals involved in the above and the nature of health risks; and

(c) whether World Health Organisation have set any limits and whether these are being followed in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Government is aware of the possibilities of the general health risk from metals as a result of increasing industrialisation. A worldwide collaborative WHO/UNDP Project carried out with great care at the beginning of this decade did not reveal excessive intakes of lead and cadmium in the average population in 3 urban localities in India. A multicentric study supported by Department of Environment is currently underway to get the

baseline data for heavy metals in water, food and air.

(b) Main metals of concern are cadmium, lead mercury and arsenic. Cadmium causes damage to kidney and bones whereas lead and mercury are principally neurotoxic. Arsenic may cause dermatitis.

(c) WHO has set limits of tolerance for a few heavy metals. The limits of heavy metals in various foods have already been prescribed under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

As regards water, Government has also prescribed its own guidelines for acceptability of drinking water laying down the tolerance limits of heavy metals.

Proposal for Uniformity in Tariffs in Major Ports

6991. SHRIMATI INDUMATI BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for fixing tariffs for the different major ports;

(b) the port charges and wharfage rates charged at different major ports;

(c) the reasons for differences in tariffs in the major ports;

(d) whether ports having lower tariff rates are attracting more traffic than the other ports where tariff rates are higher; and

(e) if so, whether Government have any proposal to make the tariffs uniform in all major ports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) The traffic passing through a port consists of many commodities. The ability to bear the port charges may vary considerably with individual commodities. Some commodities may not stand the full costs, which include depreciation, overheads and minimum return on capital employed. Commodities like coal and salt will move only when the charges are substantially low. In such cases the ports are required to recover only the bare cost of moving such traffic which are direct costs and constitute