

(d) steam locomotives are being gradually replaced by Diesel and Electric locos, according to the availability of resources. It is difficult to forecast the date for total replacement of the large number of 6212 steam locos.

Over-Aged Steam Engines on Bhavnagar Division

3633. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that over-aged steam engines are running on Bhavnagar Division of Western Railway ;

(b) if so, the number of such engines ;

(c) whether use of the over-aged engines are affecting the timings and the speed of running trains ; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government for those over-aged engines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) There are no over-aged steam engines running on the Metre Gauge section of Bhavnagar Division. However, on the Narrow Gauge of Bhavnagar Division, over-aged steam engines are running.

(b) Eight.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per the present policy, no new steam locomotives are being built. Depending on the resources available, diesel engines are being introduced selectively on routes with higher density of traffic. The steam locomotives working on these routes are released for deployment locomotives may be working. The narrow gauge Section of Bhavnagar has less density of traffic with only 4 pairs of trains running and the steam locomotives at present working on this section will be replaced by these released from other sections in their turn according to this procedure.

Increase in All India Average of Expenditure Per Bed Per Annum incurred in Government Hospitals

3634. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any increase in the all India average of expenditure per bed per annum incurred by the Centre and the State Government on medicines and diet in the Hospitals during the last three years ;

(b) if so, what was this increase in the expenditure on diet and medicines compared to the increase in the All India Consumer Price Index Number during the same period ; and

(c) the State-wise break-up of (b) above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c) Health is a State subject. The Central Government is not maintaining any account of what the State Governments are spending in respect of various hospitals under their administrative control. The per capita expenditure on health however, is estimated to have gone up from Rs. 19.91 in 1979-80 to Rs 27.86 in 1981-82. Similarly, expenditure on Family Planning has gone up from Rs 1.84 in 1979-80 to Rs. 2.77 in 1981-82.

Railway Line in Kerala Vis-a-Vis Population

3635. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the Kilometre railway line per one lakh population in the State of Kerala ; and

(b) whether effective measure are being taken to minimise this high degree of imbalance with special reference to Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAD SCINDIA) : (a) The route Kilometrage in Kerala per lakh population is 3.6.

(b) 281 Kms. of new Railway lines have been added, in Kerala since Independence. Two more new lines are already under construction.