

on the Indian side have been mostly completed, surplus staff has been transferred to other projects of the Central Water Commission. One work-charged employee, who was not willing to accept alternative employment, has been retrenched.

[*English*]

Bridge Over Ganga at Patna

670. SHRI C.P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether construction of bridge over the river Ganga at Patna is pending with the Government since long ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to complete the construction of the bridge ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b) : Engineering Field survey for conducting a feasibility study of the Bridge has been completed and recess work is in progress, along with the traffic survey. A final decision will be taken in consultation with the government of Bihar after receipt of the detailed Survey Report and the same examined, in all its aspects, subject to availability of funds and clearance by the planning commission.

[*Translation*]

Delay in providing Medical Aid to the Accident Victims of G.T. Express

671. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time taken in providing medical aid to the injured passengers of the 15-Dn. G.T. Express which met with an accident on January 6, 1985 ;

(b) the reasons for delay in providing medical aid to them ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such delay and lapses in future ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b) : Prompt medical attention was given to the injured passengers of 15 Down G.T. Express, which met with an accident on 6.1.85, by railway doctors who reached the site at 7.05 hours. There was, thus, no undue delay in providing medical aid.

(c) Railways take due care invariably in moving the medical relief train expeditiously to the accident site for rendering prompt medical attention. Besides, medical aid is also requisitioned from all possible sources in and around the vicinity of the accident sites.

English

Facilities to School going Disabled Children

672. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state what facilities Government propose to extend in favour of the school going disabled children ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR) : A statement on the facilities extended to school-going disabled children by the Central Government is enclosed.

Statement

To enable disabled students to pursue education from class IX onwards the Government of India provides scholarships. Scholarships are also given for technical and professional training, correspondence courses of study and on-the-job training. In addition readers' allowance to the blind, prosthetic/transport allowance to orthopaedically handicapped are

available. Assistance is also given for purchase of books stationery and special equipments.

2. Disabled persons, including students, are provided with necessary aids and appliances for their physical rehabilitation. The value of the aids ranges between Rs. 25/- and Rs. 1500/-. It is provided free of cost if the income of the family of the disabled is less than Rs. 750/- per month and at 50 per cent cost if the income ranges between Rs. 751/- and Rs. 1500/- per month.

3. Facilities for integrating disabled children in normal schools are available. The Scheme of Integrated Education of disabled children provides for additional special teachers, resource rooms and other facilities to those schools who offer education to handicapped children.

4. Financial assistance is given to voluntary organisations to conduct special education and training programmes for disabled students. The assistance extends to construction of school buildings, construction of hostels, provision of equipments, maintenance of the school, maintenance of the hostel, transport, etc.

Setting up of Two more General Cargo Berths at Haldia

673. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust requested the Government to set up two more general cargo berths at Haldia ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the steps so far taken by the Government thereon ; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) to (d) : The Port had proposed the construction of one General Cargo Berth at Haldia. The Working Group on Port Sector for the Seventh Five Year Plan has recommended it for inclusion in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The Seventh Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised.

Financial Assistance to Private Shipping Companies for Purchasing New Vessels

674. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Shipper's Council have urged the Government to provide financial assistance to private shipping companies for purchasing new vessels ; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : This is already the policy of the Government.

Introduction of Super Fast Trains from Gauhati to New Delhi and Bombay

675. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce superfast trains from Gauhati to New Delhi and Bombay to bring the North Eastern Region into the national mainstream ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?