

the age of 35 years are eligible for 50% concession in second and sleeper class, when travelling in connection with research work. The concession is granted on production of the prescribed certificate from Registrar of the University/Director of Public Instructions.

[Translation]

Alleged Bungling in FCI

2656. DR. GUNVANT RAMBHAU SARODE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a tender had been invited on 27th January, 1995 for the rice stored in Manmade warehouse of Food Corporation of India for two years;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any complaints about bungling in the tender episode;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to bring this stock into the market?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Food Corporation of India has been authorised to sell more than 2 years old rice through tenders to the highest bidders.

Archaeology Reserves

2657. SHRI VISHWANATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any measures for preservation of famous archaeology reserves seven hundred years old tombs located in Orchha in Madhya Pradesh in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the local administration has permitted the private sector for the construction of big hotel in the area between historic Kanchanghat and the said tombs in Orchha; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government to protect such historical places?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d). Some monuments at Orchha in Madhya Pradesh have been declared as State Protected Monuments by the Directorate of State Archaeology, Government of Madhya Pradesh. These monuments do not come under the purview of Archaeological Survey of India.

[English]

Teesta Torsha Express

2658. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of many demands from different sectors the speed of Teesta Torsha Express has not so far been increased and AC Sleeper Coach has not been provided in the train;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which AC sleeper Coach is likely to be provided and the speed of the train increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c). Speeding up of Teesta Torsha Express is not feasible at present due to operational constraints. AC 2nd Sleeper could not be provided on the train due to shortage of these coaches and deployment of the same shall be considered on availability of additional coaches.

Bodhi Temple

2659. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of long time agitation and unrest of Buddhists of India for ensuring Buddhists management in Bodhi Temple of Gaya, Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether steps are being taken to handover the management of this temple to the Buddhists; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?