

(b) It has been agreed to in principle to remove the portion of the branch line to Gudivada, which passes through Satyanarayanapuram and also to relinquish 25.3 acres of prime land involved provided suitable alternative land of equivalent value within Vijayawada Municipal limits is made available to the Railways, in exchange for the land being relinquished and the cost of the enabling works is deposited with the Railways.

General Hospitals

3617. PROF. K.V. THOMAS :

SHRI A. CHARLES :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal to the Union Government for assistance for the disposal of Waste in the district/general hospitals in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) Yes, Sir, a proposal on waste disposal from general/district hospitals at an estimated cost of Rs.3.57 crores was received from the Government of Kerala for special Central assistance.

(b) Planning Commission has requested Government of Kerala to revise the proposal taking into account the recommendations of the High Power Committee on Urban Solid Waste Management.

[Translation]

Non-Conventional Energy Sources in Bihar

3618. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to promote Non-Conventional Sources of Energy in Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura and Madhubani Districts of North Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details of the schemes formulated for the Districts and the funds allotted for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : (a) and (b). The Government is promoting use of non-conventional energy sources by providing fiscal and financial incentives and policy support in the country including in the State of Bihar. The States are given annual targets based on the proposals received, potential and the infrastructural capabilities of the States and the funds available with the Government. No district-wise targets are allocated by the Central Government.

Urjagram projects are sanctioned directly and specific funds as the schemes are released to the State Government for these projects. Out of Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura and Madhubani districts of North Bihar, two Urja Grams have been taken up in the districts of Sharasa and Madhepura respectively. The details of which are as under :--

Name of Urjagram	District	Funds released
Rauta	Saharsa	Rs.1,10,000/-
Rahua Sangram	Madhubani	Rs. 40,000/-

[English]

Trained Pilots

3619. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Air Force is facing the shortage of trained pilots; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE-RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b). The IAF is facing a shortage of trained pilots. To increase the intake, Short Service Commission for officers has been introduced in Transport and Helicopter stream including Short Service Commission for women. Wide publicity is also being carried out in schools and colleges. With these steps, intake of pilots has considerably increased since 1989.

Reservation for Ex-MPs

3620. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether former Members of Parliament can only reserve their berths in Rajdhani and Shatahadi Express trains only one hour before the departure of trains and they are put to great inconvenience as a result thereof; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to allow them well to get their seats reserved in the Rajdhani and Shatabadi Express trains like other passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) and (b). As per extant instructions, former Members of Parliament can travel by Rajdhani and Shatabadi Express trains, if accommodation is available, after preparation of reservation charts. There is no proposal to modify the existing arrangement.