

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is not possible to quantify losses due to sudden diversions on account of temporary blockade of route.

(d) Barring 4 accidents in April, 1989, the average number of accidents per month during the remaining months of the period under consideration was less than one.

(e) Improved maintenance practices, intensive monitoring of sensitive drivers' category, frequent surprise inspection, improving quality of out-turn from workshops are some of the important steps taken to reduce the incidence of accidents.

#### **Participation of Multinationals in Non-Essential Sector**

1309 DR. Y S RAJA SEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow participation of multinationals in non-essential sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Government's basic policy towards foreign collaboration, financial and technical, is selective and designed to channelise investment into areas which require sophisticated technology or where critical production gap exists or which would help to increase the country's export potential. Foreign collaboration in the non-priority sector is not ordinarily permitted. However, proposals in these areas are considered on merits taking into consideration factors such as nature of technology involved, availability of indigenous technology, potential for export earnings, need for updating existing technology to become competitive, etc

#### **Hydro-Electric Projects of Punjab**

1310. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hydro-electric projects of Punjab received by the Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance during 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) the number out of these projects cleared

with their capacity and cost; and

(c) the funds allocated for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No such case.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

#### **Quality of Edibles**

1311. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the edibles sold on Northern Railway Station between Delhi-Amritsar-Jammu Tawi are of poor and substandard quality; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the quality of edibles made available to the railway passengers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Some complaints have been received

(b) Steps taken/proposed to be taken for improving the catering services include modernisation of base kitchens/refreshment rooms, intensive inspections, random sample checks of edible items and action against the contractors or staff responsible for lapses

#### **Standard of Catering**

1312. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the readymade tea and coffee supplied and sold on Northern Railway Stations between Delhi-Amritsar-Jammu Tawi Via Panipat/Saharanpur is not only of poor and sub-standard quality but is also less in quantity/measurement; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the quality and quantity of tea/coffee made available to the railway passengers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES). (a) Some complaints have been received.

(b) Intensive inspections by Railway Officers and Inspectors, punitive action against the staff/contractors responsible for poor quality; use of standard quality tea/coffee.