

[*Translation*]

Replacement of Saloons by Passengers Coaches

220 SHRI HARSH VARDHAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of 80-wheel and 4-wheel saloons with the Indian Railways and the purpose for which these are utilised,

(b) whether, with a view to curtail the expenditure these saloons are proposed to be replaced by passenger coaches

(c) if so, the details thereof and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) There is one twin-Saloon for the President of India in addition to 285 bogies (8 wheelers) and 473 (4-wheelers) Inspection Carriages on all the nine Zonal Railways. These Inspection Carriages are used for camping during inspections, window trailing track and other running inspections for Railway Officers at all levels

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise

(d) With the increasing use of sophisticated technology, optimal utilisation of Railway assets, paramount need for safety, unavoidable site inspections inherent in working arrangements and out-door work involved on the Railways for Officers makes it essential to provide for these mobile inspection carriage facilities

Frequency of Trains on Salempur Barhaz Railway Line

221 SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD Will

the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is proposed to run a train on Salempur-Barhaz line four times a day, and

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) No, Sir

(b) The existing two pairs of trains are considered adequate for the present level of traffic on the section

[*English*]

Exemption of Tripura-Calcutta sector from Inland air travel tax

222 SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the only efficient means of transport from Tripura to Calcutta is by air,

(b) if so, whether Government propose to subsidize the air travel facility by exempting it from Inland air travel tax,

(c) whether the hike in air fare effected from July 1, 1989 has been made applicable to this sector also, and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) to (d) The Inland Travel Tax has been levied by Government @ 10% of basic fare with a view to mobilise additional resources and is uniformly applicable on all domestic air travel Indian Airlines fare levels