

in the North Eastern Region including the Calcutta-Agartala sector are already lower level by about 17% when compared to the fares in the rest of the country. Besides, Vayudoot has also introduced Janta services between Calcutta and Agartala on a fare having a subsidy element of 33%.

**Rail Link between Agartala and Kumarghat**

223. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for construction of rail line between Agartala-Kumarghat has been completed; and

(b) the details in this regard and when the project is likely to be completed and commissioned?

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

(b) It is difficult to state at this stage the details of the project or when it is likely to be completed and commissioned.

**Super Fast Trains on Kumarghat-Guwahati and Kumarghat-Calcutta sections**

224. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce a daily pair of super fast train from Kumarghat to Guwahati and another pair from Kumarghat to Calcutta and vice-versa; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Operational & resources constraints.

[Translation]

**Second Class Railway Compartments**

225. SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate scheme to improve the conditions of second class railway compartments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

(c) Does not arise.

**STATEMENT**

(a) & (b). Steps taken to improve the condition of Second Class Coaches:—

1. Provision of cushioned berths in Second class day coaches.
2. Provision of cushions in Second Class Sleeper Coaches.
3. Increase in water tank capacity on broad gauge coaches from 1272 litres to 1820 litres and on metre gauge from 960 litres to 1206 litres.
4. Drinking water facilities on long distance trains.
5. Water coolers on Second class sleeper and day coaches on trial measures.
6. Bacteria free drinking water on trial measures.

7. Progressive vestibuling of important Mail and Express trains.
8. To Improve cleanliness of bathrooms, high pressure water jets at terminals and enroute.
9. Provision of Mobile train cleaning staff on selected trains.

#### **Reinstatement of Railway Employees Dismissed in 1980-81**

226. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of employees of Loco running staff were dismissed during 1980 and 1981;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to reinstate such employees in railway service; and

(d) if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). About 611 loco running staff were dismissed/removed from service under Rule 14(ii) of the Railway Servants (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, which corresponds to clause (b) of the second proviso to Article 311(2) of the Constitution. Such action was taken in connection with the mass agitation launched by the Loco Running Staff Association in the early part of 1981, in which about 13,000 running staff took part. While taking action under Rule 14(ii) it is not necessary to follow normal disciplinary procedure. The action taken against these loco staff has been upheld by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in July 1985.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal to reinstate these employees excepting as a result of appeals/revision petitions made by individual employees or as per Courts' final

orders.

[English]

#### **Air Taxi Service**

227. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to authorise some private parties to operate air taxi service;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the non-resident Indians among them;

(c) whether Government have received any representation to remove obstacles in conducting this service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these would be removed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A revised scheme for Air Taxi operation was approved and become operational in October, 1989.

(b) So far eight parties have been given a clearance in principle. They are:

- (1) M/s Delhi Gulf Airways Services Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
- (2) M/s Asia Funds Ltd., New Delhi.
- (3) M/s Dalmia Resorts International Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
- (4) M/s Capt. Priyadarshan Pandey, Denmark.
- (5) M/s Air Asiatic Ltd., Madras.
- (6) M/s Maneckji Aviation Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.
- (7) M/s India International Airways Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.