

(e) Health is a State subject under the Constitution and the setting up of hospitals are under the control of the State Govt.

(f) to (h). This Ministry has no proposal.

[English]

Travel Concession to Senior Citizens

4285. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from organisations of senior citizens to seek further travel concessions:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demand is for grant of rail travel concession to the senior citizens of the age of 58 years and above in all classes without any distance restriction.

(c) Due to resource constrains and increase in input costs, it is not found feasible to accede to the request for further concession for senior citizens.

Reservation Quota from Punalur and Kottarakkara Stations

4286. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the reservation quota from Punalur and Kottarakkara Stations in Kerala for Kerala Express, Jayanti Janata and Rajkot Express; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) and (b). A quota of 2 Second

class berths each by train No. 2625 Trivandrum-New Delhi Kerala Express, 1082 Cape-Bombay V.T. Jayanthi Express and No. 2604 Trivandrum-Rajkot Express Ex. Quilon is already available at Punalur and Kottarakkara stations. Due to limited availability of reserved accommodation and full utilisation of quotas at the existing quota holding stations, it is not feasible to provide additional quotas at these stations for the present.

[Translation]

Tunnel between Ratanpur and Jamalpur

4287. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the work on railway line passing through the tunnel between Ratanpur and Jamalpur stations was undertaken and when it was completed;

(b) the time limit of that tunnel determined by engineers; and

(c) whether it is safe to pass trains through this tunnel and if not, the steps being taken to make it safe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) The line along with the tunnel was started in 1856 and completed in 1861.

(b) Condition of the tunnel is satisfactory. No particular life span has therefore been specified.

(c) yes, Sir.

[English]

Bogies in Local Trains

4288. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the local trains are running with dilapidated bogies;