

comes available. There is no shortage of medicines in the dispensary ; but if some medicine is not available at a particular point of time, then the same can be prescribed by the Specialist for direct purchase from the Super Bazar.

Development of Buckingham Canal

2734. SHRI BEZHAWADA PAPI REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is heavy growth of traffic on National Highway No. 5 particularly in the Vijayawada-Madras Sector ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the 250 miles long Buckingham Canal, built in the 19th Century and which has now silted up needs marginal widening so that it can easily be utilised for introduction of fast moving hydrofoil boats for taking freight and passengers in this sector, at very low and economic prices ; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) Yes. There has been substantial growth of traffic in the Madras-Vijayawada section of National Highway No. 5.

(b) and (c). This Canal, even after marginal widening, may not be suitable for fast moving hydrofoil boats for taking freight and passengers, as the water depth in the canal will not be sufficient for operating such boats. The economics of operation of hydrofoil boats are yet to be established in India.

However, scheme for development of Buckingham Canal from Ennore to Beddaganjam Lock for operation of mechanised vessels, has been proposed for inclusion in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The Seventh Five-Year Plan is, however, yet to be finalised.

Construction of Over-Bridge at Kavadi (Nellore District)

2735. SHRI BEZHAWADA PAPI REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a persistent demand for years for construction of an over bridge at Kavadi (Nellore District) in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) if so, reasons for delay and proposal for meeting this long pending genuine need ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Kavadi Municipality have also offered to bear its portion of the cost ; and

(d) whether Government have plans to take up the project to help development of the area and its socio-economic needs and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). As per extant rules, the work of road over bridges in replacement of busy level crossings are sanctioned jointly by railway and the State Government on cost sharing basis. The proposal for road over bridge at Kavadi is under the consideration of Railways and State Government who are willing to bear their share of cost. Due to constraint of resources and a number of works of road over/under bridges already in progress in Andhra Pradesh State, it has not been possible to include this work in Railways Works Programme so far. This proposal will be considered for inclusion in Railways future Works Programme alongwith other such works, subject to availability of funds.

Withdrawal of wagon allotment facility at Repelle Station

2736. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Central Railway Authorities had withdrawn the wagon allotment facility at Repelle Railway Station in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh hitherto catering to the export needs of fishermen of Nizampatnam and adjoining coastal area ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to re-start the wagon facility at Repelle Railway Station immediately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). There is no traffic in goods offered by fisheries industries. As the other traffic offering at Repalle Station also has been meagre, it has not been possible to organise regular goods train services on the branch line to Repalle Station. Facility for loading piecemeal wagons from this station was, therefore, discontinued. However, whenever, there is a demand for loading full train loads from this station, special arrangements are being made to clear the traffic. There has been no change in the process of materialisation of traffic at this station since withdrawal of facilities of registration of wagon load. There is, therefore, no proposal to resume this facility.

**Improvement of Harkhua Gopalganj
Railway Station**

2737. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that condition of Harkhua Gopalganj Railway Station is in a very bad condition ;

(b) whether, keeping in view that there are several industries and sugar mills operating in Gopalganj district, there is any proposal to improve the condition of Harkhua Gopalganj Railway Station and provide necessary amenities there ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Proposals include extension of waiting hall, provision of a retiring room, booking office, SQT godown, parcel office-cum-godown, and extension of Station Master's Office.

**Decision re : Orissa's Irrigation
and Power Projects**

2738. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details regarding the various irrigation and power projects forwarded by the Orissa Government which are pending decision with the Union Government ; and

(b) the time by which Union Government are likely to clear those projects ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a). The major and three medium irrigation projects of the Government of Orissa have been considered acceptable by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission with certain observations to be complied with by the State authorities. One major and two medium schemes are under consideration of the Technical Advisory Committee. Six major and nine medium schemes are being appraised in the Central Water Commission (CWC) in consultation with the project authorities.

As regards power projects, one hydro scheme has been techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and has been forwarded to the Planning Commission for their approval. One thermal scheme (Ib. T.P.S.) and one hydro scheme (Hirakud Stage III) are under examination in the CEA. The revised project report of the Bhimkund multipurpose scheme is awaited from the State Government.

(b) Techno-economic clearance is given to projects when the State authorities have complied with the comments of the CWC and the CEA.

**Filling up of vacant posts of Draftsmen,
Estimators and Tracers**

2739. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of Draftsmen, Estimators and Tracers are lying vacant in Civil Engineering Department in South Eastern Railway, division-wise and headquarters also ;

(b) the steps taken by the Railway Administration to fill up these posts ;