

Progress Made by Indian Antarctica Expedition

109. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress so far made by the Indian Antarctica expedition ;

(b) What schemes the expedition has been entrusted with ;

(c) how are they being implemented ; and

(d) whether we have been able to earmark the area of our operation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) The Fourth Indian Antarctic Expedition sailed from Goa on December 4, 1984. It landed on Antarctica on December 28, 1984. After a stay of over 2 months on the frozen continent the expedition team started its return journey on march 1, 1985. The expedition team is expected to reach Goa around March 25, 1985.

(b) The expedition members have carried out scientific experiments in the fields of geology, geo-physics, glaciology meteorology, biology and oceanography. They have carried out surveys and experiments to identify the mineral potential of the area, established a direct high frequency communications link between India and Antarctica, carried out maintenance of the permanent Indian Antarctic station, constructed additional accommodation and laboratory space, erected a large garrage for parking of vehicles and storage of equipment, and built a small field station in the hills at a distance of about 60 kilometres from the permanent Indian Antarctic station.

(c) Programmes are being implemented through persons drawn from different scientific laboratories, research institutions, government departments and uni-

versities. Logistic support for the expeditions is provided by members drawn from the Indian Army, Navy and the Air Force.

(d) Our area of operation in Antarctica has extended to 4000 sq. kilometres around the site of the permanent Indian Antarctic station.

Concession to Electronics Industry

110. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new concessions have been announced by Government for the electronics industry ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONIC (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). No new concessions have been announced by the Government recently for the Electronics Industry. In November, 1984 Government had however announced reduction in Customs Duty on :

(i) Import of certain raw material for Component Industry ; and

(ii) Import of certain raw material/ components required for computer manufacture and on computer system.

Representation for Extension of Sub-Way at Kharagpur

111. SHRI NARAYAN CHOVBHEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had received any representation for extension of the sub way at Kharagpur to the new bus stand at Kharagpur on South Eastern Railway ;

(b) whether Government are aware that the former Railway Minister had assured that the sub way would be extended as per public demand as existing highway over bridge is difficult to be used

by thousands of old and ailing passengers ;
and

(c) whether Government would take steps to keep the promise of the former Railway Minister and extend the sub way upto the present and new bus stand ?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The proposal was to consider it for inclusion in 1985-86 Budget subject to availability of funds. A foot-over bridge is already available at Kharagpur to enable the passengers to go from one side to another and connecting all platforms, as is the general practice on other stations.

(c) Due to severe cut in funds, it has not been possible to consider this work for inclusion in 1985-86 Budget.

Work Load to K. G. Students

113. **SHRI K. PRADHANI :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state : (a) whether a recent study by the National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development has revealed that KG workload is injurious to kids and discourages early schooling of children; and

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the research study conducted by the above Institute and taken necessary steps to set matters right ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) The study is yet to be completed.

(b) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling Railway Section

114. **SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to modernise the Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling Section of railway in North Bengal to

make the train journey more attractive there ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken so far in this regard, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c). A proposal has been approved for the improvement of the New Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling narrow gauge train service coaches which provide for modern sitting accommodation with cushion seats and large glass windows for better view of the outside scenery. Bath room facilities are also being modernised. 4 such modernised coaches have been pressed into service.

Construction of Bridge Over Railway line

115. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Railway Station Nagda on Western Railway is an important Junction being industrial area with the coming up of industries there;

(b) whether Government are also aware that a large number of people of Nagda cross the Railway line to come to Birlagram, the industrial centre and every year there are accidents ;

(c) if so, whether there is a demand for constructing a bridge over the railway line ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to meet the demand of the people of the area ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) & (b). Nagda is an important Junction on Delhi-Bombay Trunk Route. For for the use of passengers at Station, two foot over bridges are provided connecting Nagda town on North and Birlagram on South side of the Station. As a part of Kota-Nagda doubling project the Railway has also constructed a road overbridge on Ingoria Road which branches off