

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposal for opening of halt station at Umroli between Palghar and Boiser stations was examined by Western Railway but not found financially justified.

**Mobile booking system in Suburban section of Bombay**

4722. SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to restart mobile booking system in Suburban section of Bombay to avoid inconvenience to commuters ;

(b) if so, when ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The working of the system was not found satisfactory. Alternative methods of opening additional counters and/or installing Self Printing Ticket machines are being employed to the extent feasible, to relieve rush at booking windows.

**Social Forestry Courses in educational Institutions**

4723. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to introduce a course on Social Forestry in the curricula of educational institutions ;

(b) whether guidelines are proposed to be sent to the State Governments to introduce such courses ; if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether some State Governments like Madhya Pradesh have initiated efforts

to popularise social forestry programmes in schools ; and

(d) if so, the assistance proposed to be given by the Centre to such State Governments ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (d). School Education is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and is mostly looked after by them. State Governments and State Boards of Secondary Education are responsible for prescribing the curricula, syllabi and textbooks at all levels. The Government of India agrees that social forestry is an important subject to which students must be adequately exposed and measures are being taken to strengthen its education in schools but academically it would not be appropriate to introduce a new subject in schools on social forestry in view of the already heavy curriculum. The curriculum prepared by the NCERT highlights the importance of forests in everyday life. Various aspects of Forestry already form a part of environmental education presently being taught in schools and has been included in existing subjects like Social Science, Geography, Biology, etc.

The States are free to adopt/adapt the NCERT curriculum. Academic support through NCERT would be provided to all states including Madhya Pradesh, wherever it is required.

**Health Guides in Madhya Pradesh**

4724. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to appoint more Health Guides during the current financial year ;

(b) if so, the number of Health Guides proposed to be appointed under Central schemes ;

(c) how many Health Guides are proposed to be appointed in Madhya Pradesh in this period ?