

[*Translation*]

Malethukanak Station Platform to be Raised

3686. SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme to raise the level of the platform of the Malethukanak Station (District Faizabad) is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which work is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) The proposal for raising of rail level platform to medium level at Malethukanak Station has been approved. It is not possible to indicate the target date of completion at this stage as it will depend upon the availability of funds.

[*English*]

Distribution of Sodium Thiosulphate Vaccine to Bhopal Gas Victims

3687. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether sodium Thiosulphate vaccines were distributed to the Bhopal-1 gas victims as per the direction of the Supreme Court ;

(b) whether ICMR has conducted a study which gave an indication of the amelioration of the condition of the victims ; and

(c) how many victims are still being treated and whether there is a consensus or the treatment of the victims by Medical experts ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. However, Supreme Court had direc-

ted the Government of Madhya Pradesh to distribute Sodium Thio-Sulphate injections also to the clinics run by Voluntary organisations as per guidelines issued by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

(b) and (c) The ICMR has conducted a controlled double blind study on the use of Sodium Thiosulphate. On the basis of this, it recommended the use of Sodium Thiosulphate for the amelioration of the condition of the gas victims. Based on ICMR's recommendations, the affected persons are being treated and all necessary medicines are being provided.

Additional Bogies and Trains to and fro New Jalpaiguri

3688. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the heavy rush of passengers boarding at New Jalpaiguri, the railhead for Sikkim, Darjeeling, Bhutan, Nepal ;

(b) whether it is a fact that at the above Junction a large number of armed force personnel also travel to and fro frequently ;

(c) whether the trains are so crowded that passengers travel on rail tops even on fast trains also totally blocking the vestibuls ; and

(d) if so, whether regular additional train is proposed to be started and additional bogies attached to existing trains as is being done on special occasion ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Besides Tinsukia Mail which was running earlier, Railways have extended Assam Mail on Broad Gauge to Gauhati via new Jalpaiguri. In addition a fast train is running between Gauhati and