

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Pilot studies for short course chemotherapy drug regimen containing Rifampicin and Pyrazinamide have been taken up in 18 districts of the country. Based on the experience gained and the results achieved, it is proposed to include more number of TB Centres during the ensuing years of the Plan period.

National TB Control Programme is at present being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 50:50 sharing basis between the Centre and the States. Under the Central share anti-TB drugs, X-ray Units with Odelca. Camera and X-ray films are supplied. At present 361 district TB Centres provided with equipment and staff, 319 other TB Clinics and 45,500 TB beds are functioning in the country.

Acquisition of container vessels by shipping corporation of India

4702. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 90 per cent of the container cargo traffic is being taken out by foreign liners and the Shipping Corporation of India is getting only about 9 per cent due to non-availability of modernised container vessel:

(b) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has not so yet acquired any modernised container cargo vessel to facilitate the coastal trade within and outside the country;

(c) whether some of the shipyards abroad have submitted proposals for supply of container vessels with long term credit facilities for their acquisition and if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the action proposed to update the fleet position of Shipping Corporation of India ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) The Indian

Lines, share of container traffic during 1984 was about 15% and the share of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. was about 14%.

(b) Even though SCI has not acquired cellular container vessels so far, the current requirements are met through time chartering of such vessels.

(c) In response to SCI's tender enquiry for construction of container vessels various Shipyards have offered long term credit facilities ranging from 10% to 20% of the price being payable upto delivery and remaining 90% to 80% price being payable either as Deferred Credit or as loan over a period of 8 to 15 years.

(d) The Seventh Plan acquisition programme of SCI envisages mainly acquisition of modern specialised vessels like container vessels, edible oil carriers, phosphoric acid carriers, ammonia carriers, etc.

Facilities in tinsukia mail

4703. SHRI WANGPHA LOWANG : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether passengers travelling by Tinsukia Mail have to face a lot of inconvenience due to lack of proper facilities which are required to be available in a Mail Train, such as fittings in coaches, cleanliness, availability of beddings, catering, etc; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to improve efficiency and services in the Tinsukia Mail ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) & (b) No, Sir. Adequate facilities in the shape of proper mechanical and electrical fittings, cleanliness, travel bags and catering facilities have been provided in Tinsukia Mail. However, with a view to improve the services further, adequate maintenance staff from electrical side have been provided to escort the train. Mobile safai-walas to travel with the train and attend

to cleanliness on the run during day time have also been provided. However, when any specific complaint is received, the same is investigated and suitable remedial measures are taken.

Railway lines in desert areas of Rajasthan

4704. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 57 dated 17.11.1983 regarding railway lines in Desert Area and state :

(a) whether the Department of Railways is paying special attention to hilly areas especially North East with regard to construction of new railway lines;

(b) whether desert areas, especially of Thar Desert of Rajasthan State which are more underdeveloped and backward as compared to the hilly areas are being neglected by Government;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(d) whether Government will do justice to the desert areas by removing aforesaid disparities and inequalities; and

(e) whether Railway Department will include Bikaner to Kandla via Jaisalmer and Barmer so that Pathankot may be linked to Kandla Port in the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Construction of new Railway Lines in the North Eastern Region have been approved on considerations of national integration and for connecting border hill states,

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Following new lines and gauge conversion projects in Rajasthan are in progress :—

New Lines

1. Kota-Chittorgarh-Neemuch.

2. Mathura-Alwar.

Gauge Conversion of MG Lines into BG

1. Suratgarh-Bikaner (Lalgarh).

2. Suratgarh-Anupgarh Conversion to BG has been opened to traffic in March, 1985. Residual works are in progress.

(e) There is no proposal to include its construction in the Seventh Five Year Plan at present.

Overbridge near rajampet Railway Station (Andhra Pradesh)

4705. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal with the South Central Railway to construct over-bridge near Rajampet Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, since when it is pending; and

(c) if no such proposal is pending, whether Government are considering to take up construction of the said over-bridge ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Railways undertake construction of road over/under bridges in replacement of existing busy level crossings jointly with the State Government on cost-sharing basis. Proposals in this regard are required to be sponsored by the State Government with an undertaking to bear their share of cost. No firm proposal has been received from the State Government so far in this regard.

[Translation]

Water logging at Lucknow Airport

4706. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that water accumulated in the Amausi airport in Lucknow due to the recent rains and the airport was rendered unusable for some days;