

(ii) Road services are cheaper and quicker when compared with rail services.

(b) The income at Railway stations on Doharighat - Indara section is not likely to improve with the gauge conversion of Varanasi - Bhatni section.

(c) It is not a fact that passengers prefer to travel by other costlier means of transport due to meter gauge line between Varanasi and Doharighat. It is also not a fact that passenger trains do not run to time.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

Report of Indian Council of Medical Research Re. Failure of National Health Education Programme

691. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the study report of the Indian Council of Medical Research has come to the notice of Government wherein it has been pointed out that the national health education programme has failed due to lack of credibility of the Government health programmes in terms of provisions of effective medicine and non-availability of doctors at the primary health centres ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to overcome these deficiencies in the Seventh Plan ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b). It has been reported by the Indian Council of Medical Research that the Council has only this month received a report from an investigator in receipt of a study grant from the ICMR who was engaged in a study entitled, "A comparative study of under-utilisation of Health Services in three States of India."

The investigator who carried out the study has come to the conclusion that the failure of the health education programme in the rural areas of Kerala, Gujarat and Bihar could be attributed to

the lack of credibility of the Government health programmes in terms of provisions of effective medicine and non-availability of doctors at the Primary Health Centres. As the ICMR has yet to examine the report, the methodology used and the validity of the conclusions drawn, it is premature to consider these findings conclusive.

Speeding up of Coastal Passengers Shipping Service between Bombay and Panaji.

692. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing coastal passenger shipping service from Bombay to Panaji on the West Coast needs to be speeded up ;

(b) if so, whether suitable high speed boats are going to be introduced soon to facilitate fast travel by sea on the West Coast :

(c) if so, what will be the passenger carrying capacity of these boats ; and

(d) what will be the passenger fare structure on the route ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACEL TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present to introduce high speed boats by the Government on the existing Coastal passenger service from Bombay to Panaji,

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Meeting of National Water Resources Council

693. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the National Water Resources Council was held recently in the Capital ;

(b) if so, the details of the subjects discussed and the decisions arrived at with particular reference to setting up a

standing river Commission for each inter-state river as a machinery for cooperation ;

(c) the time by which Government are going to take a final decision in this regard ;

(d) whether a meeting with the State Chief Ministers will be convened in the near future for this purpose ; and

(e) if so, when and if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARA NAND) : (a) The first meeting of the National Water Resources Council was held on 30th October 1985 to consider the issues involved in the formulation of a national water policy.

(b) The Council was unanimous that water should be treated as a precious and scarce national resource and dealt with as such, and that there was urgent need for the formulation of a national water policy with a view to ensuring an optimal use of the available water resources, both surface and ground, in the overall national interest. No decision was taken regarding the setting up of a standing river Commission for any inter-State river.

(c) to (e) The Council decided to set up a group under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of water Resources to prepare a national water policy document within six months for consideration by the Council.

[Translation]

Construction of Rail-Cum-Road Bridge on the Ghaghra at Chhitauni

694. **SHRI KUNWAR RAM :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether construction of rail-cum-road bridge on the Ghagra at Chhitauni in Gorakhpur division is likely to be completed during Seventh Plan Period ; and

(b) if so, the amount allotted, separately, by the Railway Administration, U.P. Government and Bihar Government for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, for restoration of Chhitauni-Bagaha M.G. rail link, including construction of a rail bridge across river Gandak (and not a rail-cum-road bridge across Ghaghra), the Railway has incurred expenditure of Rs 3.98 crores, and has completed and opened to traffic the section from Bagaha to Valmikinagar (9 kms). Only token allotment has been made in Railway Budget 1985-86 for this work. The total cost of the project as estimated in 1982, is Rs. 61 crores, which includes Railways' share of Rs. 23 crores and State Governments' share of Rs. 38 crores. The State Governments of U.P. and Bihar have deposited only Rs. 3 crores and Rs. 2 crores respectively. Their commitment to bear their increased share of cost, is awaited.

[English]

Increase in Licence Fee and Rent of Railway Stalls at Bombay C.R. Division

695. **SHRI S.G. GHOLAP :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Bombay Central Railway Division has increasey the licence fee and rent charges of railwad stalls recently and that too with retrospective effect from 1974 ;

(b) if so, whether it is against the policy of the Railway Board laid down by the notification dated 25.1.1969 bearing reference No. 68. TGIII/670/PO/RC-PAC ; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Board in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) The rent of catering stalls on Bombay Division of Central Railway was revised in June, 1984 with retrospective effect from 1974. The license fee was revised as and when it became due.

(b) No, Sir. The Board's Notification No. 68. TGIII/670/10/RCPAC dated 25.1.1969 pertains to revision of licence fee, and not to rental charges.