

During the period April—September 1985, 3 unmanned level crossings have been manned. 6 level crossings are programmed for manning during the year 1985-86.

(d) and (e) Level crossings, considered hazardous due to poor visibility or high traffic density or plying of buses, are programmed for manning in a phased manner. 56 such unmanned level crossings have been identified on the Northeast Frontier Railway. Out of which 18 have so far been manned.

#### Air Taxi Services

729. SHRI T. BASHER :

SHRI BHOLANATH SEN :

SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :

SHRIMATI JAYANTI  
PATNAIK :

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

SHRI T. BALA GOUD :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to allow air taxi operations in the country ;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking such a decision;

(c) what are the routes selected for such services ;

(d) what types of aircrafts are proposed to be used as air taxis ; and

(e) whether this service will be run by any private agency or by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (e). It is intended to implement the scheme of Air Taxi Service mainly for the development of tourism and linking stations in different parts of the country. Details of the scheme and the modalities of its implementation are being worked out.

#### Report of Committee of Experts for Merger of DGHS with Health Ministry or Abolish one of them

730. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee of experts set up by Government has urged Government either to merge the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare or abolish one of them ; and

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations made by this Committee and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The Government of India in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has not set up any Committee of Experts to study the merger of Dte. General of Health Services with Health Ministry or abolition of one of them.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Incentives to Doctors Serving in Rural Areas

731. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI :

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS  
MUNSI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE : be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Eighth Finance Commission had sanctioned Rs. 400 per doctor per month serving in rural areas and whether such doctors are being given this amount ;

(b) whether Government are considering to give any further incentive to doctor who accept appointment in rural areas ; and

(c) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) To attract medical graduates to accept appoint-

ment in rural areas, the 8th Financial Commission has recommended incentives for which the Finance Ministry have agreed to provide special funds to the States as under :

- (i) Sanction of rural allowance @ Rs. 250/- p.m. for doctors serving in Primary Health Centres.
- (ii) House rent allowance @ Rs. 150/- p.m. where doctors are not provided residential accommodation.

In addition, the Finance Commission has made special provision of Rs. 53.52 crores for construction of residential quarters for the doctors. The hilly areas have been provided 30% 'Mark up' in the cost of construction.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

#### Railway Accidents During May-October, 1985

732. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :  
SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV :  
SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA  
NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway accidents which took place during May-October, 1985 ;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured and damage to railway property as a result of those accidents ;

(c) the details of the causes of those accidents ;

(d) the details of the compensation given to the families of those killed and injured therein ; and

(e) the steps taken to bring down the number of accidents in railways ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHIR BANSI LAL) : (a) and (c). During May-October, 1985, 410 consequential train accidents took place on Indian Railways and their causes are as under :

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| (i) Failure of Railway staff                     | 235 |
| (ii) Failure of persons other than Railway staff | 34  |
| (iii) Failure of equipment :—                    |     |
| Mechanical                                       | 53  |
| Track  | 16  |
| (iv) Sabotage                                    | 5   |
| (v) Combination of factors                       | 5   |
| (vi) Incidental                                  | 18  |
| (vii) Could not be established conclusively      | 7   |
| (viii) Under investigation                       | 37  |

(b) In these accidents, 152 persons lost their lives and 354 persons were injured.

(c) The cost of damage to railway property has been estimated as Rs. 6.04 crores.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(e) Some of the important safety measures taken to bring down the number of accidents in railways are :—

(i) Introduction of modern technological aids like ultrasonic testing of rails and rolling stock axles, provision of track circuiting, axle-counter, panel and route relay interlocking, auxiliary warning system etc.

(ii) Programmed rehabilitation of rolling stock, track, signal gears, bridges and other assets.

(iii) Progressive manning of unmanned level crossings and liaison with State Governments for observance of motor vehicle rules by road users at level crossings, programmed provision of road over-bridges.

(iv) Educative publicity through posters and other media on the hazards of carrying inflammable articles in compartments and caution to be exercised while negotiating level crossings.