

passengers to Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) whether such concessional fare would be as prevalent in some other regions of the country;

(c) if so, what is the decision of the Government and when it will be introduced; and

(d) if not, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government has received a proposal regarding reduction in the air fare between Calcutta-Port Blair and Madras-Port Blair.

(b) to (d) While Indian Airlines offers a discount of Rs. 50/- on family fare for travel of at least two members between Calcutta-Port Blair and Madras-Port Blair, in view of the high cost of operations, further discounts in fare would not be feasible. Indian Airlines has, however, expressed its willingness to offer discount on these sectors if such travel forms a part of a tourist package to be developed in collaboration with I.T.D.C.

Second Platform at Kesinga Railway Station

2621. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for a "Second-Platform" at Kesinga Railway Station of South Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) There are already two platforms at this station. There is proposal to raise the second platform. Its construction will depend upon availability of funds.

Maintenance of Jhansi Fort

2622. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of monuments of national importance that enjoyed protection by the Central Government in the year 1984-85;

(b) the amount spent on the maintenance of those centrally protected monuments during 1984-85;

(c) whether it is a fact that the famous fort of Rani Lakshmbai at Jhansi has been transferred from Defence to Archaeological Department;

(d) whether it is also a fact that in the process of transfer the Fort has been neglected both by Defence Department and Archaeological Department; and

(e) if so, what corrective measures are being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) The total number of monuments/sites under Central protection as per entries of the notification as on 31.3.85. was 3514.

(b) The amount spent during 1984-85 on the Special Repairs and Annual Maintenance and upkeep of the Centrally protected monuments/sites is given below :

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Special Repairs | 143.18 Lakhs |
| Annual Maintenance and Upkeep | 113.88 Lakhs |

(c) Not yet, Sir. The matter is under active consideration.

(d) and (e) The Fort is presently under the charge of the Defence authorities and is being maintained by them.

Progress of Goitre Control Programme

2623. SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of the Goitre Control Programme; and

(b) the names of the endemic districts in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The endemic goitre belt in India stretches across the entire sub—Himalayan region and includes the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura besides Punjab, Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Endemic goitre is also found prevalent in certain districts of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Kerala.

The salt iodisation programme is the best and cheapest way to eradicate goitre and iodine deficiency disorders.

The Government of India launched the National Goitre Control Programme towards the end of Second Five Year Plan with the following objectives :—

1. Identification of the Goitre endemic regions.
2. To supply iodised salt in place of common salt to the goitre endemic regions.
3. To assess the impact of goitre control measures over a period of time.

To achieve the objective, the Government of India have since permitted private sector to participate in the production of iodised salt.

Government have also decided to take up a programme of iodisation of entire edible salt in the country in a phased manner during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans, to ensure availability of iodised salt every-where in the country.

Renewal of Tracks

2624. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Rupees 500 crores a year is spent on track renewals;

(b) on what basis decision is taken and how the tracks to be replaced are selected; and

(c) how it is ensured that a line is not replaced unnecessarily ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The amount spent on track renewals varies from year to year. In 1985-86, Rs. 502 crores (net) was allotted and in 1986-87 allocation of Rs. 595 crores (net) is proposed.

(b) and (c) The renewal of track is planned on the basis of age, condition and cumulative traffic carried. Every proposal of track renewal is based on detailed site inspection on above technical considerations.

Conversion of Railway Lines and their performance

2625. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) which MG lines have been converted into Broad Gauge and at what costs during the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(b) what improvements have been resulted by these investments; and

(c) whether the performance of these converted lines is better than Metre Gauge lines of other countries like in Australia where a Metre Gauge train has a load of over 10,000 tonnes and runs at a speed of 60 kmph ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The following rail lines have been converted from M.G. to B.G. during the Sixth Five