

special preparatory course. 634 SC/ST students were admitted to Regional Engineering Colleges during 1985-86.

(b) and (c). *Indian Institutes of Technology* : On the basis of the aggregate marks obtained by them in the Joint Entrance Examination, those of the SC/ST students who do not qualify for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology, even under relaxed criteria, are offered admission to a preparatory course. At the end of this preparatory course, the SC/ST students are offered admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology, on the basis of a qualifying test, without having to appear in the Joint Entrance Examination again.

*Regional Engineering Colleges* : In case sufficient number of SC/ST students are not available against the seats reserved for them under the state quota, steps are taken to fill up vacant seats by SC/ST candidates from other States and Union Territories.

**Daily shipping service for Inter-Island passengers of Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

3611. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious problems faced by the Inter-Island passengers of Andaman and Nicobar Islands ;

(b) whether Government propose to arrange for daily shipping service for Inter-Island travelling there ;

(c) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps in that direction ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Proposals for procurement of adequate number of vessels for opera-

tion on the Inter-Island shipping services in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been included in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The acquisition of these vessels will enable providing daily service between Port Blair and Middle Andaman and bi-weekly/weekly services to the other inhabited islands.

**Imbalance between Railway and road traffic in matter of high rated freight traffic**

3612. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the revenue of the Railways suffer to a great extent because considerable high rated freight traffic is reserved for the road transport and railways are left to carry the low rated traffic ; and

(b) if so, will this imbalance between the railway traffic and road transport traffic be removed and the social burdens on railways reduced in the interest of Railway's finances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) There is no such reservation for road traffic and Railways are also carrying high rated traffic.

(b) Does not arise.

**Compulsory certificate regarding AIDS for visiting Americans**

3613. SHRI VISHNU MODI :

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item published in 'Navbharat Times' dated 19 February, 1986 under the caption 'Bharat AIDS Rog Se Mukh' (India free from the AIDS disease) ;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of the