

(e) DCP (Traffic) has been delegated the powers to suspend the driving licence of such drivers and even to impound their vehicles. In order to eliminate the practice of refusal by Taxi/TSRs to come to destination desired by passenger, special drives are undertaken by Delhi Traffic Police.

A prepaid taxi service at Palam Air Port has been made operational since 8.2.86. A control room with telephone No. 230782 in the Directorate of Transport receives and registers complaints for further action.

Cancellation of flights on Chandigarh-Srinagar-Leh routes

44. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of regular Indian Airlines flights cancelled on the Chandigarh-Leh and Srinagar-Leh routes during the month of June, 1986 alongwith the date of cancellation out of the total of nine scheduled flights ; and

(b) the reasons for cancellations and for not making arrangements for clearance of stranded passengers on the following dates ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Out of nine scheduled flights on Chandigarh-Leh-Chandigarh sector, two flights on the 12th and 23rd June, 1986 had to be cancelled. On Srinagar-Leh-Srinagar sector, two out of a total of 12 scheduled flights, on the 13th and 25th June, 1986 had to be cancelled.

(b) The flights were cancelled due to bad weather at Leh. The flights cancelled could not be operated on the subsequent days either due to bad weather or due to non-availability of aircraft at Chandigarh and Srinagar during the restricted hours of operation and also non-availability of Leh airport for Indian Airlines operations on Saturdays and Sundays.

Allotment of Bookstalls to unemployed Graduates at Mirzapur and Allahabad stations

45. DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) how many applications were received from unemployed graduate categories for allotment of Bookstall Contract at Mirzapur Railway Station and for allotment of Bookstall Contract on newly constructed platforms at Allahabad station in response to advertisement made in Newspapers through currency cheque ; and

(b) the details of persons to whom these bookstalls are being allotted on merits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) One application has been received by the Railway for bookstall at Mirzapur. In case of Allahabad, the number will be known only after 11.8.86, which is the last date for receipt of applications.

(b) The allotments have not yet been finalised.

Sale of Dangerous Medicines

46. SHRI ANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report released at the 39th World Health Organisation Congress on 13 May, 1986 revealing that more than 23,000 kinds of non-prescription, useless and even dangerous medicines are on sale ;

(b) if so, how many such drugs marketed in India have been listed in the report ; and

(c) what effective steps have been and are being taken to curb the health hazard presented thereby ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) The report released at the 39th World Health Organisation Congress on 13.5.86 has been examined by Govern-

ment but it has been observed that there is no mention about more than 23,000 kinds of non-prescription, useless or dangerous medicines on sale.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

'Palace on Wheels' and 'Great Indian Rover' Trains

47. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that "Palace on Wheels" and "Great Indian Rover" trains are running in loss ;

(b) if so, the year-wise income earned by them during the last three years ;

(c) the year-wise expenditure incurred on them during the above period ; and

(d) the total amount spent on the fabrication of the trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) "Palace on Wheels" is running at a loss while "Great Indian Rover" has not yet been put to regular commercial use.

(b) to (d). The income from "Palace on Wheels" was Rs. 43.15 lakhs, Rs. 35.73 lakhs and Rs. 47.24 lakhs for the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 respectively. The direct cost on "Palace on Wheels" was Rs. 63.02 lakhs, Rs. 60.39 lakhs and Rs. 76.72 lakhs during the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 respectively. Rs. 129.43 lakhs were spent on the fabrication of "Palace on Wheels". In case of "Great Indian Rover", the questions do not arise in view of reply given above to (a).

[*English*]

Use of Foetal Sex Determinal and Sex-Selection Technologies

48. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: SHRI MANIK REDDY :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported use of foetal sex determinal and sex pre-selection technologies in hundreds of private clinics throughout the country with the object of eliminating the female child ;

(b) whether Government have details of number of tests carried out during the last three years, State-wise and number of female abortions made and if so, details thereof ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to ban such sex determination tests and restrict the use of such tests to selected Government hospitals with proper infrastructure to detect genetic abnormalities ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The Government is aware of alleged misuse of pre-natal sex determination tests in some parts of the country.

(b) No such details are available in the Department of Family Welfare.

(c) The Government of India have addressed the States from time to time bringing it to their notice that pre-natal sex determination tests are allowed to be practised in India only for research purposes and for the diagnosis of cases of sex linked genetic disorders and not for any other indication.

The provisions of Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act which generally enable abortions under certain conditions do not provide for protection against the offence of abortion (under the Indian Penal Code), if it is merely on the basis of sex of the foetus.

So far it has not been decided to restrict the use of such tests to selected Government hospitals.

Improvement in Methodology for Determining Various Diseases

49. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any improvements in the present methodology for determining the incidence of various