

in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 28 December, 1986 under the caption "Most Ayurvedic Drugs found adulterated";

(b) if so, whether authentic barks are rarely available commercially and ayurvedic drugs containing ashoka bark are being marketed in the country;

(c) whether detailed pharmacognostic investigations of 12 samples at the Lucknow centre of the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants have revealed that 75 per cent of the 12 samples of the ashoka bark were adulterated; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are two varieties of Ashoka tree in the country. Their names are "*Saraca ashoka*" and "*Saraca indica*". While *Saraca ashoka* is available in limited quantity, *Saraca indica* is available in plenty. Bark of both the species is being used as Ashoka bark.

(c) and (d). In a study conducted at the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, among 12 drug samples of ashoka bark, 9 were found to be substituted by bark of some other plants while 3 samples were found authentic.

Diverslon of Flight AI 503 from Moscow to Helsinki

5293. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India's Flight, AI 503, was diverted on 13 January, 1987 from Moscow to Helsinki due to bad weather at Moscow;

(b) whether the aircraft was exposed to severe icing conditions for about 24 hours on ground at sub-zero temperature at Helsinki;

(c) whether the A.I. instructed the Pilots to certify the aircraft instead of positioning a qualified aircraft maintenance engineer;

(d) whether the situation could have been avoided by adopting a "Second officer training" concept; and

(e) the remedial measures being contemplated in such matters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The pilots are fully trained and qualified to carry out external pre-flight inspection in absence of aircraft maintenance engineers.

(d) No, Sir. There is no provision for second officer in Airbus A310 aircraft.

(e) In view of (c) and (d) above, question does not arise.

Eklakshi-Balurghat Railway Line

5294. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position of Eklakshi to Balurghat railway line in West Bengal; and

(b) the allotment made so far, if any, and the details of the progress made so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). The expected expenditure for Eklakshi-Balurghat section upto March, 1987 is Rs. 3.60 crores. The progress till January, 1987 is 3%.

Appointment of Committee to review Functioning of NIEPA

5295. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a recent Audit report in respect of National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration has suggested appointment of a Committee to review the functioning of this Institute; and