

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect either Madurai-Thirunelveli or Madurai-Tuticorin by Vayudoot service for the southern most region of Tamil Nadu to be connected with the capital; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Subject to development of an airport, provision of infrastructure, availability of aircraft capacity and economic viability of operations, Vayudoot has plans to airlink Tuticorin with Madras during the current Plan period.

Indian Physicians in US to donate Sophisticated Equipments for Indian Hospitals

1379. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR :
SHRI R. M. BHOYE :

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

(a) whether Indian Physicians settled in US have desired/approached the Union Government to donate sophisticated equipments and diagnostic aids for the Indian hospitals;

(b) whether the offer has been accepted by Government; and

(c) if so, the names of the hospitals where such sophisticated equipments will be put into use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) The American Association of Physicians from India has offered to donate used medical equipments for utilisation by hospitals in India.

(b) The Government have designated the Medical Council of India as the nodal Authority to collect and pass on the demand of various medical institutions for such equipment to the American Association of Physicians from India.

(c) The Medical Council of India has addressed the various medical institutions regarding their requirements of equipment, which is being furnished to the American Association of Physicians from India. The final allocation of equipments to specified hospitals will be made only after the complete list of donated equipments is received from the American Association of Physicians from India.

Survey for Rail Link Between Dumka and Jasidih in Bihar

1380. SHRI SALAHUDDIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey has been conducted to lay a railway line for introducing direct rail service between Dumka and Jasidih in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details of the survey report and the reasons for not constructing this rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) A Broad Gauge rail line already exists from Jasidih to Baidyanathdham. Survey for a new rail line from Dumka to Baidyanathdham (length 67 kms.) was carried out in 1982-83. The cost of the project was estimated at Rs. 27 crores and it was assessed to be financially unremunerative.

[*Translation*]

Licences of vending units for SC/ST Contractors

1381. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who have been granted licences for undertaking contracts of catering under the North Eastern Railway and the Eastern Railway;

(b) the number of Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste contractors out of them; and