

lines and the trains are regularly running late;

(c) whether there is a demand of the people of that area to replace the old steam engines with diesel engines so that the rail service on these lines could be improved; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Narrow Gauge section touches stations in the suburbs of Vadodara, but does not touch Vadodara Junction Station.

(b) Only a few of the steam locomotives operating on the Narrow Gauge in the Dabhoi area are overaged.

Punctuality of trains on the Narrow Gauge sections has been ranging from 93.5 to 98 per cent in the past 3 months.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Suitable narrow gauge diesel locomotives have been designed by the Indian Railways and will be manufactured in the Railway Production Units in the coming years.

[*Translation*]

Linking Nagpur with Air Services

6949. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal is under consideration to link Nagpur with various parts of the country by air service as Nagpur is situated in the centre of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Nagpur is already linked with various parts of the country by air.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Procurement of Drugs from Medical Store Depot, Madras

6050. SHRI M. MAHALINGAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government undertakings like Madras Port Trust, Neyvelli Lignite Corporation and Central Government departments like the Railways draw their requirements from the Government Medical Store Depot, Madras;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to stress on such organisations to draw their requirements from the Government Medical Store Depot;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the State Governments have been advised to meet their requirements from the Government Medical Store Depot, if so, what is the rationale thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Central Government Undertakings have their own stores organisations and they follow their purchase procedures. However, whenever any medicine is not available with their Stores, they purchase these from Government Medical Store Depots. In 1986-87, the Southern Railway, Madras had purchased medicines from Government Medical Store Depot, Madras worth Rs. 6,32,891.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

(e) Some State Governments/U.Ts have their own purchase organisations. They place indents on the Government Medical Store Depots for medical stores which they do not procure. Other State Governments/U.Ts which do not have their own purchase organisations place indents on the Medical Stores Organisation for supplies regularly.