

**Employment to Local People in
Construction Works in
Railways**

6269. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board encourages the employment of local workers/labourers in the construction of new railway lines/conversion projects, and recruits them from the State in which such projects are under construction;

(b) if so, the number of persons employed from Jammu and Kashmir in the construction of Jammu-Udhampur line and from Himachal Pradesh in the construction of Nangal-Talwara railway line; and

(c) if not, the reasons, therefor and whether the local labourers will be given preference in employment in works on both the lines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes. Sir. This applies to fresh recruitment.

(b) Jammu-Udhampur—44, Nangal Dam-Talwara—25. In addition large number of local people are also employed by agencies engaged in the construction of these lines.

(c) Does not arise.

**Point to Point Charter Service for
Tourists**

6270. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether India being a long haul destination, air fare to India is considered as disincentive by tourists;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce point to point charters in a big way to India; and

(c) steps being proposed to reduce the cost of other ground transport arrangements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir. Promotional fares with discounts on the normal fares have been established to provide incentives for long haul tourists to come to India.

(b) Promotion of charters to India is being constantly reviewed and the charter policy has been further liberalised by removing the restriction on the minimum charter fares for the tourist season, 1987-88.

(c) Since City Transport services at international airports are being managed and run by a number of agencies, it may not be possible to reduce the cost of these services very much.

Scanty Rainfall in Karnataka

6271. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of scanty rainfall in various districts of Karnataka;

(b) whether Government are also aware that there is a dearth of underground water in the State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to find a lasting solution to these problems of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Deficit rainfall conditions have been noticed in some districts of Karnataka during the last three years.

(b) and (c). Replenishable ground water potential of Karnataka State is of the order of 1.30 m.ha.m. Estimated ground water draft was of the order of 0.28 m.ha.m (1985).

Steps like exploration of deep aquifers and augmentation of ground water through artificial recharge techniques have been initiated.