

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

(a) whether some obstacles regarding customs duty etc etc. are being experienced in getting gift of medical equipment and diagnostic aids being given by Indian Physicians in US; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the procedure being followed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b). Detailed instructions regarding the grant of customs duty exemption in respect of medical equipment sought to be imported from abroad by way of free gift from the donors abroad have been laid down in the Notification No. 279/83/Custom. dated 30th September, 1983 issued by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue). Under this Notification, the Government of India in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare or the Directorate General of Health Services is authorised to issue Customs Duty Exemption certificates in respect of the medical equipment which, fulfills the various conditions laid down therein.

#### Catering Arrangements in Charminar Express

2452. SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether catering arrangements have been provided in Charminar Express running between Hyderabad and Madras; and

(b) if not, when such arrangements are proposed to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The catering requirements of passengers travelling by Charminar Express are being adequately met by the Static Units en-route.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Establishment of Autonomous Institutions for Improvement of Water Reservoirs

2453. SHRI JAGANNATH

PATNAIK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an Expert Committee was appointed by Union Government to suggest the establishment of autonomous institutions for improvement of water reservoirs both at the Central and State level;

(b) if so, whether Government have received report in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details of recommendations and the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c). A Reservoir Sedimentation Committee, set up to suggest measures for improvement of sediment measuring techniques and suggest norms for planning future projects, submitted its report in July 1982 which was circulated to States in January, 1985. The Centre has advised State Governments to evolve a permanent mechanism at each of the reservoirs for measurement of silt inflow to make a continuous assessment of the actual sedimentation taking place in various reservoirs.

In August 1982, a Standing Committee was set up to review the existing procedures and to evolve unified procedure of dam safety for all the dams in India. The Committee submitted its report in July, 1986. The main recommendation of the Committee that the States shall arrange safety review of dams which are more than 15m in height or store 50,000 acre-feet or more of water, by an independent panel of experts once in 10 years has been accepted.

#### Introduction of Passenger Trains on Diva-Vasai Route

2454. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a wide-spread discontent among the people for not responding to their pressing demand for introduction of passenger trains

on the Diva-Vasai railway route which is used at present exclusively for goods traffic; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review their earlier decision and introduce passenger trains on this route to facilitate the implementation of the long pending demand for introduction of Pune-Ahmedabad train via Diva-Vasai route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). There have been demands for opening the Diva-Vasai Road section for passenger services, but infrastructure facilities do not exist for running of passenger trains.

Work required for upgrading the section for passenger services will call for heavy investment which is not feasible at present due to acute scarcity of resources.

#### Overbridge at Auta Halt

2455. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to reach upto the platform of Auta Halt (between Mokamch and Hathidah railway stations) in Eastern Railway, two railway lines namely Howrah-Delhi and Barauni have to be crossed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of accidents causing death have taken place at this place during the last two years; and

(c) if so, whether Government have any proposal to construct an overbridge at Auta Halt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Halt station has been opened only on 17.2.87. No such information is available with the Railway.

(c) No, Sir.

#### Festival of India to be Held in USSR

2456. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the dates fixed for the festival of India to be held in the USSR;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to organise such exhibition in Soviet Union every alternate year; and

(c) if so, the advantages thereof and the financial implications of such organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHJ): (a) Festival of India in USSR will be held from 3rd July 1987 to July 1988.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Ganga Bridge at Varanasi

2457. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress regarding the construction of the second bridge over river Ganga at Varanasi;

(b) whether it is a fact that non-acceptance of the lowest tender submitted by the Uttar Pradesh Bridge Corporation and recommended by the Uttar Pradesh Government is leading to further delay; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not accepting the lowest tender of the Uttar Pradesh Bridge Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The State Government was advised in February 1987 to award the work to M/s Hindustan Construction Company Ltd., whose tender was evaluated to be the lowest responsive tender.

(b) There has been no delay due to