

(b) if so, the details of these projects;

(c) whether Union Government would consider providing financial assistance to the State Government for completion of these projects; and

(d) if not, the measures proposed by Government for expeditious execution of these projects and for ensuring much needed irrigation facilities to the State?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :

(a) and (b). Many of the on-going projects are behind schedule, mainly because of inadequate funding.

(c) and (d). Irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Governments and Central assistance is given in the form of block grants and loans for the State's Plan. The State Governments have been urged to prioritise the projects for optimal allocation of available resources and provide adequate funds for completion of on-going projects which are in advanced stage of implementation. The Union Government is earmarking the outlays for important projects and is also arranging external assistance, wherever possible, to step up resources. Important projects are being closely monitored by this Ministry.

Setting up Magnetic Van line by Indian Airlines

3491. **SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines is preparing to set up a 'Magnetic Van line' to transport passengers between Domestic airlines and International Terminal in New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the cost of this 'Magnetic Van line' will be about 35 to 40 crores of rupees; and

(c) if so, what is the compelling necessity for the 'Magnetic Van line'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(Translation)

New railway lines in Bihar

3492. **SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to convert Ranchi-Lohardaga narrow gauge line into broad gauge line and to lay broad gauge lines from Lohardaga to Tori and from Ranchi to Koderma via Hazaribagh in Chhota Nagpur in Bihar; and

(b) if so, by what time the work on these lines will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). Surveys for the suggested gauge conversion/new lines have been recently completed. The projects have been found to be financially unremunerative. Due to severe constraint of resources there is no proposal to take up construction.

(English)

Foreign collaborators' influence on medical research in India

3493. **SHRI VISHNU MODI :**
SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA :

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

(a) whether in India most of the medical research work is being undertaken on collaborative basis with one or the other country with the assistance of WHO, USAID, Rockefeller, Ford Foundation and Colombo Plan;

(b) whether the foreign collaborators influence, in a big way, topics for research having relatively less importance to India and more vital for them; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking or propose to take to see that topics of vital importance for our country are given preference for research?