

**Artistes from Andhra Pradesh
sent to Russia**

810. SHRI E. AYYAPIU REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state that the number of artistes from the State of Andhra Pradesh sent to Russia in connection with the Festival of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI-MATI KRISHNA SAHI): 26 artistes have been sent to USSR in the Festival of India, so far from Andhra Pradesh.

**10-Point strategy to meet
transportation needs**

811. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 10-point strategy has been evolved to meet transportation needs of the year 2000 A.D.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this policy overlooks the interests of passengers from smaller stations by leaving them to roadways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a to c). Indian Railways Corporate Plan for the period 1985-2000, is under finalisation. It is expected to be ready in August, 1987. The details of development plans and strategies would be available after the Plan is finalised.

Increase in Input Cost of Steel

812. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether input cost of steel has

increased substantially since the last sale price revision of steel in February, 1985;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government intend to take to overcome this increase in cost?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The increases have mainly been in the input costs of Coal, Railway Freight, Power, Petro fuels and Cesses.

(c) Efforts are being made continuously to neutralise to the extent possible, increases in input costs through higher capacity utilisation and increased productivity and technological efficiency together with economics in expenditure.

[Translation]

Speeding up of Chetak Express

813. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been urged many times to increase the speed of Chetak Express which links Udaipur with Delhi;

(b) whether Government propose to run this train with a diesel engine with a view to increase its speed and also to add air-conditioned coaches for the convenience of the tourists; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to introduce a fast train from Udaipur via Chittorgarh, Ajmer and Jaipur?

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

(b) 15/16 Chetak Express is being dieselised and its load being augmented from October'87 Time Table, but speeding up has not been found feasible. There is shor-