

(c) whether Government of Kerala has resubmitted any proposal for clearance of hydro-electric project which was initially rejected by the Ministry; and

(d) if so, the decision of the Ministry thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). No, Sir. No hydel project has been denied clearance on the basis of seismological studies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) One project, namely Sabarigiri Augmentation Scheme was resubmitted by the State Government. After due assessment this proposal was again rejected in May, 1987.

Allocation for Passenger Amenities

5224. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for passenger amenities by the Railways for the current year;

(b) the projects identified for the development of better passenger amenities.

(c) the amount allocated for Southern Railway for the purpose; and

(d) the details of projects/programmes completed in Kerala under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Rs.17.74 crores.

(b) Improvement to station buildings, Waiting Halls, Drinking water facilities, platform covers, booking arrangements, toilet arrangements, etc. are some of the projects identified for development of better passenger amenities.

(c) Rs.1.95 crores.

(d) Improvements to Station building at Kasargod at a cost of Rs.12.34 lakhs.

Extension of Howrah-Cochin and Cochin-Guwahati Expresses upto Trivandrum

5225. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala-bound Passengers Association, Visakhapatnam has made a request to the Railways to extend the Howrah-Cochin Express upto Trivandrum as a daily train with two slip coaches from Visakhapatnam and back and also to extend Guwahati-Cochin Express upto Trivandrum as the existing service of trains is greatly insufficient to meet the requirements of Kerala and Mangalore-bound passengers;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) how Government propose to meet the requirement of the passengers travelling from Visakhapatnam to Mangalore and places beyond Cochin.

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

(b) and (c). Besides direct services between Visakhapatnam and Cochin/Trivandrum, a daily through coach is available between Howrah-Mangalore via Madras. People can also travel to different destinations in Kerala by a single changeover at Madras/Palghat/Ernakulam.

Replacement of Old Coaches/Bogies in Trains in Kerala

5226. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2828 on 13 August, 1987 regarding replacement of old bogies and state:

(a) whether any steel bodied coaches, wooden bodied IRS coaches and light utilisation coaches which have crossed the time frame for replacement are being used for the trains running within Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment of the age-cum-condition of the coaches was made;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) whether these coaches were found fit for further use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). Only 12 of the fleet of 1083 no. of coaches plying on the Kerala region have crossed their codal time frame.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. This detailed assessment is made once every 12 months or 18 months, depending on the type and service, when the coaches are overhauled in the workshop.

(e) Only those coaches which are found fit are retained in service. All the coaches in service are fit for use.

Central Assistance for Strengthening and Repair of State Highways in Madhya Pradesh

5227. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted certain proposals for providing financial assistance for strengthening and repair of some important state highways under the Central Scheme of Inter-State or Economic Importance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the roads have been approved for providing financial assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) In April, 1987 proposals were invited from all the State and Union Territory Governments including Madhya

Pradesh for inclusion under the Central Aid Programme of Loan Assistance for State roads of Inter-State or Economic Importance of 7th Five Year Plan. However, no proposal has been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Upgradation of State Roads as National Highways in Karnataka

5228. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHAI
MURTHY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has been repeatedly requesting Union Government to upgrade some of the State roads as National Highways;

(b) if so, the reactions of Union Government thereto; and

(c) the details of the State roads likely to be upgraded and National Highways in Karnataka during the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government is examining the possibility of declaring some of the State Roads as National Highways.

World Health Organisation Study on Smoking of Tobacco

5229. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

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

(a) whether according to the recent study conducted by the World Health Organisation it has been revealed that near-about 2.5 million people die every year from diseases relating to smoking of tobacco;