

the State Road Transport Corporations, including Kerala State Road Transport Corporation for the year 1987-88 are being finalised. Thereafter the funds would be released to these Corporations.

Distribution of Iron and steel

861. SHRI SAMBHAJIRAO KAKADE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quota allocation and demand registration scheme is being managed by the Development Commissioner, Iron and Steel;

(b) what is the role of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. in this regard;

(c) whether there are any guidelines for distribution of iron and Steel materials;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the work of registration and distribution has been stalled; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Steel Authority of India Limited supplies iron and steel materials to consumers against demand registrations and also in accordance with the priority laid down by the Joint Plant Committee's Guidelines for distribution of iron and steel materials.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Distribution Guidelines give the highest priority for supply of iron and steel materials to sectors which are vitally important to the national economy such as Defence, Railways, Irrigation, Power, EEPC, SSICs etc. They also provide for increased supplies to units situated in Centrally declared backward areas. North Eastern sector and Jammu and Kashmir. According to these guidelines, raw materials entitlements of industrial units are determined by the main producers themselves in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines,

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Conversion of Adilabad-Purna railway link

862. SHRI UTAM RATHOD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made in conversion of Adilabad-Purna railway line from metre-gauge to broad gauge ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : This conversion work is yet to commence.

Increase in drug consumption

863. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a big increase in consumption of drugs particularly Antibiotics during the last decade; and

(b) if so, the measure taken by Government to check the increase in drug consumption ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) With the increase in population and wide spread infections, consumption of drugs particularly anti-biotics has increased.

(b) Judicious use of drugs through medical education is advocated by the Central Health Education Bureau and similar bodies including association like Indian Medical Association.

Copper mining in Tamil Nadu

864. SHRI P. KANNAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether copper is being mined in the Chittoor village in Erode Taluk of Periyar District of Tamil Nadu; and