

(b) whether public demand is also taken into consideration while arriving at such decisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The requirements of traffic, adequacy of the available facilities, availability of railway inputs and the developmental needs of the area are the main criteria.

(b) Yes, Sir.

#### **Formation of Asian Circuit to Hold Athletic Meets**

546. SHRI T. BALA GOUD: Will the Minister HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to form an Asian circuit with other countries in order to hold regular athletic meets over a period of four to six weeks before the start of major championships; and

(b) if no, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGRET ALVA): (a) and (b). Amateur Athletic Federation of India, the Apex body of Athletics, in the country, had suggested to the members of the Asian Countries to form an Asian Circuit to hold regular Athletic Meet to improve the standard of Asian players. For this an International Athletic Permit Meet has been approved by the International Amateur Athletic Federation to be hosted in New Delhi in September, 1988. Discussions with Asian Countries are still on for holding similar Meets in their Countries to form a Circuit.

#### **Foreign Exchange Released for Treatment of Diseases Abroad**

547. SHRI T. BALA GOUD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of patients and the names of the diseases for which the patients were allowed to have their treatment abroad year-wise during the last three years; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange released for each patient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b). The number of persons who went abroad for medical treatment and the amount of foreign exchange released to them during the last three years is given below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of persons</i>	<i>Foreign Exchange Released (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1984-85	621	730.96
1985-86	800	1008.23
1986-87	1075	1635.43
April to July 1987	561	647.70

The information relating to the names of persons alongwith nature of diseases and the amount of foreign exchange related for each patient, is not readily available. The efforts involved in collecting this information would not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.