

**Unauthorised Vendors and Cleanliness
at Delhi Railway Stations**

616. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Railway Task Force has been set up recently to look into the problems of unauthorised vendors and the general cleanliness of the Delhi and New Delhi railway stations; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A special task force consisting of commercial staff, R.P.F. and G.R.P. personnel has been formed. As a result of the efforts made by this task force a total of 2466 anti-social elements including 103 unauthorised vendors have been apprehended and prosecuted during the month of January, 1988, and general cleanliness improved.

[*Translation*]

Proposal to Increase Bus Fares in Delhi

617. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase bus fares in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b). Various measures for improving the performance of DTC including rationalisation of fares are under consideration of Government.

[*English*]

Late running of Neelachal Express

618. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Neelachal Express between Puri and New Delhi is running late regularly thereby causing much inconvenience to the passengers;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure its punctuality;

(c) whether there is any proposal to reduce the running time of the train, if necessary, by changing its route; and

(d) whether A.C. Chair Car coaches are proposed to be provided both in Neelachal and New Delhi-Puri Expresses at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The punctuality of Neelachal Express during January Act '88 was 38.5% and February '88 (upto 15th) 66.7%.

(b) Efforts continue to improve the position further by intensive chasing and close monitoring.

(c) No, Sir. It is well patronised on its existing route.

(d) No, Sir. At present, there is acute shortage of A.C. Chair Cars on Indian Railways.

**Protest of Indian Dental Association
Re: Advertisement of Pan Masalas**

619. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Dental Association has made a strong plea for banning commercial advertisements of pan masalas on Doordarshan, AIR and in the newspapers in view of their health hazards; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to educate the people about the ill-effects of pan masalas and similar products, known to initiate or cause mouth cancer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) and (b). Government has seen the press report issued by Indian Dental Association about alleged harmful effects of Pan Masala. However as there are inadequate epidemiological studies on this aspect, it is very difficult to categorically state whether consumption of Pan masala causes mouth cancer.

Ban on Sex Determination Clinics

620. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has recently been a mushrooming of sex determination private clinics throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the desirability of putting ban on the sex determination tests by such clinics through a Central legislation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) to (c). No data is available in the Ministry in this regard. However, the Government has constituted a small committee of experts to go into the various aspects of regulating

sex-determination tests.

Creation of Awareness of Aids

621. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1.5 lakh cases of AIDS have been reported around the world during the year 1987 as stated by WHO;

(b) if so, whether the number of AIDS cases are increasing in India; and

(c) steps Government propose to take to bring awareness of AIDS among the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) to (c). According to the estimates made by the World Health Organisation, the number of officially reported AIDS cases as on 1.1.1988 were 73,747. However, since all cases are not reported, the WHO has estimated the total number of AIDS cases all over the World to be approximately 1.5 lakhs.

Based on the country-wide surveillance and screening of persons belonging to high risk groups namely, foreigners including foreign students, sexually transmitted disease patients, prostitutes and intravenous drug abusers, the cumulative number of full blown AIDS cases detected in India as on 1.1.1987 were 6 and as on 1.1.88 was 15. Out of 15 full blown cases of AIDS in India, 8 were Indians, 6 were foreigners and 1, a non-resident Indian. It would thus be seen that the number of AIDS cases in India is small and the evidence suggests that the 8 Indians who succumbed to the disease contracted the infection during their stay abroad.