

Replacement of Irreparable Bogies

8816. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the railway bogies in use are in a pitiable condition of disrepair particularly in respect of electrical and sanitary fittings;

(b) whether it is proposed to replace these bogies ;

(c) the procedure for discarding or withdrawing irreparable bogies and replacing them by new stock ; and

(d) whether any survey is in progress in this regard in various railway zones in the country particularly in respect of local or ordinary passenger trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Coaches are condemned on age-cum-condition basis. All the overaged coaches retained in service are fit for train service.

(d) Condemnation of coaches is a continuous process. The overaged coaches whenever received in workshops for overhaul are examined for fitness. Only those coaches which fully comply with the safety and amenity standards and are economical to repair are retained in service.

Respiratory Diseases due to Pollution

8817. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the main cause of the spreading of tuberculosis, asthma and allergic diseases is indoor pollution ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to solve the problem by educating the people living in hutments or in slum areas in various cities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Pollution of air can trigger attacks of asthma, allergic diseases, and acute respiratory infections except Tuberculosis, which is primarily caused due to infection with Tubercle Bacilli.

(b) As a part of the general health education campaign, the community is advised to lead hygienic and healthy living and keep the surroundings clean so that the pollution is reduced to the minimum possible extent.

Protection of Tropical Forests

8818. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether leader of Chipko movement has made a fervent appeal for the protection of tropical forests which are the last oxygen banks on the earth and are being destroyed at the rate of 40 hectares a minute ;

(b) whether Government propose to take adequate measures for the the protection and conservation of tropical forests in the country ; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Steps taken by the Central Government are given in the Statement given below.

Statement

1. National Wastelands Development Board set up in 1985 with the object of bringing 5 million hectares of land every year under fuelwood and fodder plantation.

2. Projects for soil, water and tree conservation in the Himalyas (Operation Soilwatch) and other afforestation programmes in operation.