

review periodically the progress and implementation of education programmes.

Increased Allocation for Social Welfare Work in States

279. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the two-day conference of State Social Welfare Ministers and Secretaries was held recently in New Delhi ;

(b) if so, whether the Conference has recommended three-fold increase in allocations for social welfare programmes and measures to strengthen administrative machinery for implementing them ;

(c) if so, how many State Ministers and Secretaries attended the Conference and the details of the programmes that will be undertaken by the States during the current year ; and

(d) how much funds will be allotted by the Union Government to the States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference has recommended that atleast one percent of the public sector outlays should be earmarked for social welfare in the Seventh Plan. The strengthening of administrative machinery for implementing the social welfare programmes has also been recommended.

(c) Twenty Ministers and 21 Secretaries of various States/U.Ts. attended the Conference. The States/U.Ts. formulate their own social welfare programmes. Broadly, these relate to the welfare of children, women, the handicapped and the aged.

(d) This depends upon the budget approved by Parliament from year to year.

Survey of Darwha-Bhokar B G. Railway Line

280. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken up the survey of Darwha-Pusad-Bhokar B.G. railway line ; and

(b) if so, the progress made and the time by which it will be completed ?

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

(b) The present progress is 28.42%. As per present indications, the survey is expected to be completed by December, 1985.

Railway Reforms Committee Recommendations

281. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Reforms Committee has since submitted its final report to Government and made specific recommendations on various aspects to Railway Administration including expansion of Railway network as also the mobilisation of resources for financing operations and the new projects ;

(b) if so, a summary of the recommendations with regard to the creation of new zones and divisions as also the criteria for sanctioning and financing the construction of new Railway lines in the forthcoming five year plans :

(c) whether any recommendations have since been accepted and implemented by Government, and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (d). So far, the Railway Reforms Committee have submitted 24 reports, covering various aspects of railway working including ex-

pansion of railway network, resource mobilisation for financing operations and new projects and creation of new zones and divisions. Five copies of each of these reports have been placed in the Parliament House Library for the convenience of the Hon. Members. So far 750 recommendations have been accepted, out of which 284 have been implemented. The recommendations cover operational, technical, managerial, economic and organisational aspects of Railway working.

[Translation]

Routing Toofan Express via Nawadah Two Days in a Week

282. SHRI KUNWAR RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no express train in Nawadah-Gaya-Kiul section of the Eastern Railway for the facility of passengers travelling from Nawadah to Delhi and Howrah ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether the Toofan Express which runs between Delhi and Howrah via Patna every day proposed to be routed via Nawadah at least for two days in a week ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is no direct Express train from Nawadah, which is situated on Kiul-Gaya branch line section, to Delhi and Howrah.

(b) and (c). Long distance express trains are run taking into consideration certain factors like long distance through traffic, high track speed etc. Since Nawadah is situated on the Kiul-Gaya branch single line section where the track speed is lower and the volume of the through traffic is not sufficient to justify a full train, there is no proposal to divert 7/8 Toofan Express or introduce express trains connecting Nawadah with Howrah and Delhi.

Provision of more Berths in Train for Nawadah from Gaya and for Howrah from Kiul

283. SHRI KUNWAR RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether two second class sleeper berths in 191 UP Magadh Express train have been reserved for Delhi for people of Nawadah from Mughalsarai Station and two sleeper berths have been reserved for Howrah from Kiul ;

(b) if so, whether the same arrangements are considered sufficient for an area having a population of nine lakhs ;

(c) reasons for not providing two berths for Delhi from Gaya in any express train as Mughalsarai is at a considerable distance from Nawadah ; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide daily at least 10 Second Class berths and four first class berths in any express train for Nawadah from Gaya and for Howrah from Kiul ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In addition to 2 second sleeper berths ex. Mughalsarai in Magadh Express for Delhi and 2 second sleeper berths ex. Kiul in Danapur-Howrah Express for Howrah, 2 Second sleeper berths by 10 Dn Dehradun-Howrah Express have also been provided as a quota for Nawadah passengers, ex. Gaya for Howrah.

(c) Nawadah station is situated midway on Kiul-Gaya branch line and is served by main line stations Kiul and Gaya for Journeys towards Howrah and Delhi. There are only two daily fast trains towards Delhi via Gaya viz. 1 Up Howrah-Kalka Mail and 175 Puri-New Delhi Express which are very popular with and fully patronised by through passengers.

(d) Quotas for Nawadah passengers indicated in reply to parts (a) and (b) above have been allotted after taking into consideration the overall availability of accom-