

his. The facility of Leave Travel Concession is extended to the Central Government employees for visiting their home towns once in a block of two years, and other places once in a block of four years. Such employees purchase journey tickets on cash payment like any other passenger. The Railways do not allow any element of concession in fares or any special facilities to them and the reimbursement to these passengers is made by their respective Departments/Ministries.

#### **Survey of Ambaguda-Lanjigarh Road Rail Link**

1562. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to conduct a feasibility survey for construction of Ambaguda-Lanjigarh Road Rail Link during the Seventh Plan; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to take up construction of this rail link taking into consideration the socio-economic backwardness of this tribal area which is full of mineral resources ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) In view of severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments in hand, it is not possible to consider this proposal for the present.

#### **Replacement of Wooden and Steel Sleepers by Concrete Ones**

1563. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1666 on 28 November 1985 regarding replacement of wooden sleepers by concrete sleepers and state the expenditure involved in replacing the existing wooden and steel sleepers by concrete ones ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : The initial cost of concrete sleepers is about 6% lower than that of wooden sleepers. Service

life of concrete sleepers is about 4 times that of wooden sleepers. As and when due replacement on condition basis and to the extent feasible, these are being replaced by concrete sleepers.

Steel sleepers are not being replaced by concrete sleepers.

#### **Express Trains From Tirupati to Bombay and New Delhi**

1564. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is no direct train facility from Tirupati to either Bombay or Delhi causing great inconvenience to the passenger traffic as well as transportation;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration to start express trains from Tirupati to Bombay and New Delhi so as to ease the traffic on other trains from Madras-Bombay and Madras-New Delhi in South Central Railway Division; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) It is a fact that there are no such direct trains.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Emphasis on Girls Education**

1565. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether education of children with emphasis on girls education will be taken on a war footing under the Seventh Plan and if so, details of the Action Programme worked out; and

(b) whether non-Government agencies will be fully involved in this gigantic national task and if so details thereof ?