

Development of Railway Stations in Orissa

1708. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the plan of Government to develop Railway Stations in Orissa during the Seventh Plan period and what is the number of Railway Stations which will be developed;

(b) what was the target of Government during the Sixth Plan period for the Orissa State; and

(c) whether the target was fully achieved, if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) VIIth Plan does not identify individual stations for development. Provision of additional passenger amenities is planned on year to year basis taking into consideration the comparative need and traffic at various stations and availability of funds.

(b) Since development of stations is planned on year to year basis as stated in answer to Part (a), no such targets were stipulated in VIth Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Indian Railway Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Jamalpur

1709. SHRI D. P. YADAVA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to upgrade the Indian Railways Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering in Jamalpur as an Institute of National Importance; and

(b) the amount sanctioned for the same during 1984-85 and 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Steps to popularise Indian Culture

1710. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is considerable interest abroad in Indian culture after successful show of 'The Festival of India' in France and the U.S.A.; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to popularise Indian culture abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps are being taken by the Government to popularise Indian Culture abroad :

(1) Government of India has decided to hold Festival of India in USSR & Japan in 1987-88.

(2) Cultural Agreements are signed with various countries which envisage cultural exchange programmes in the field of education, art, culture, mass media, and various other activities.

(3) The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) sponsors scholars, painters, sculptors, potters, dancers, musicians and folk artists and arranges exhibitions in a number of countries under Cultural Exchange Programmes.

(4) Publication of books on different aspects of Indian Culture in a number of foreign languages is undertaken by the ICCR for distribution to various cultural institutions abroad.

(5) Documentary and commercial films are also sent abroad for