

(c) if so, the time by which these old equipments are proposed to be replaced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) No. All cargo equipments are not old or out of date. By and large they are in good and satisfactory condition except in certain ports.

(c) The VII Five Year Plan aims at planned modernisation of port facilities and use of updated technology. Provision has been made for replacement of cargo handling equipments in some of the major ports. Replacement of cargo handling equipments, wherever they have outlived their life, is a continuous process and is being done in a phased manner keeping in view availability of funds.

[English]

Talcher Sambalpur Railway Line

600. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) when the work on Talcher-Sambalpur Railway line was started;

(b) what is the progress made so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that the progress is very slow; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to complete this line within this limit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) September, 1984.

(b) 3%.

(c) and (d) The construction of the line is being progressed according to availability of resources which have been under severe strain. Further progress will depend upon availability of funds for New lines.

Excess of Fluoride in Drinking Water Causing Fluorosis

601. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

SHRI MANIK REDDY :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Statesman dated 4 November, 1985 that excess of fluoride in drinking water causes fluorosis which physically disables the patients and that 209 cases out of the total number of 211 throughout the World were reported from India;

(b) whether National Environmental Engineering Research Institute in Nagpur has developed defluoridation technique which can be easily adopted at villages/community levels; and

(c) areas prone to fluorosis and names of projects started in these areas to adopt the Nagpur technique along with details of funds provided and actually spent ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government are aware of the report in question.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Certain pockets in Rajasthan; Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are prone to fluorosis. The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute have set up a defluoridation plant at Kadiri in Andhra Pradesh. The Public Health Department in Rajasthan has undertaken the responsibility of providing safe drinking water and has till 1982 covered 864 fluoride affected villages in seven districts viz. Jaipur, Nagpur, Jhunjhunu, Sirohi, Alwar and Bhilwara.

Diversion of Flight AI/109 to Montreal

602. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on 19 April, 1985 flight AI/109 diverted from New York to Montreal and thereafter to Toronto instead of Montreal resulting in