

groups of rail users, like Chambers of Commerce, Passenger Association etc. No. representation is given either on regional or on district basis.

[English]

**Closing down of Stations in Kalka-Shimla
N. G. Section**

1975. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to close down any stations on Kalka-Shimla Narrow Gauge Section;

(b) if so, the names of the stations being considered for this purpose alongwith reasons for this step;

(c) whether the view of the State Government and representatives of the people in the State and centre have also been obtained while considering this decision, and

(d) if so, the reaction thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. To reduce losses on the working of Kalka-Shimla Narrow Gauge Section, there is a proposal to close down Taksal, Koti, Jabli; Sonwara and Gumman stations on this section.

(c) and (d). The views of the State Government and the Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committee will be taken before taking a final decision to close down these stations.

Birth and Death Rate of Children

1976. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of annual birth and death of children in India per 1000 in each State;

(b) whether in Orissa the rate of death is higher than other States;

(c) if so, the main reasons for the same; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to check the rise of birth and death of children in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The rate of annual birth and death of children is given in the Statements-I and II, respectively, below.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) Various steps have been taken by Government of India which include expansion of health infrastructure universal immunisation of children, control of diarrhoea and other communicable diseases prophylaxis against nutritional anaemia and supplementary nutrition under ICDS Scheme.

Statement-I

Estimates of birth rate-1984 (Provisional)

State/Union Territory		Birth rate
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.8
2.	Assam	34.4
3.	Bihar	39.9
4.	Gujarat	33.4
5.	Haryana	37.1
6.	Himachal Pradesh	30.8
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	33.0
8.	Karnataka	30.3
9.	Kerala	22.7
10.	Madhya Pradesh	36.6
11.	Maharashtra	31.0