

in the State Sector. Thus, the construction of a new pier at Rameshwaram would be the responsibility of Tamilnadu Government.

Provision of Cushioned Seats to Long Journey Passengers

9551. SHRI S. S. LAL Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the long journey yatra trains are not provided with cushioned seats and extra sleeper are provided to accommodate more passengers than the usual quota;

(b) whether it causes difficulties to the travelling janata especially the old men and women in particular who deserve some privacy while sleeping etc;

(c) whether putting of extra planks stops the light at night plunging the people of the lower berths in complete darkness and they cannot read or play some game to pass time; and

(d) if so, the positive steps taken to do away with providing of extra berths by putting planks at the cost of travelling janata in that congested circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a). In view of shortage of second class sleeper coaches, only a few ordinary sleepers are allotted to parties undertaking yatra and for others ordinary second class coaches are allotted. Manufacture of cushioned sleepers started only recently and these are being progressively provided on fast trains on important trunk routes.

(b) The coaches allotted for long journey yatra trains are out of a pool of standard coaches. The Railways have been issued special instructions to pay intensive attention to the yatra special coaches prior to their depar-

ture. The leader of the party is invariably contacted and fully satisfied regarding the condition of the Coach and his opinion recorded in the Opinion Book.

(c) Only regular berths are provided. No loose planks are fitted to provide extra berths.

(d) Does not arise.

Resolving Disputes between Non-Aligned Countries

9552 SHRI S. R. REDDY. Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been noticed that the non-aligned movement has not achieved the desired results because of certain bilateral disputes between some non-aligned countries; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government of India have taken to initiate action in resolving the disputes between non-aligned countries and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) and (b). Government of India has consistently held that disputes between members within the non-aligned movement should be settled peacefully and bilaterally without any outside interference. Such disputes tend to weaken the unity of the non-aligned movement. The question of how best the non-aligned movement could help in resolving these disputes has been considered on several occasions and there is consensus that peaceful settlement of such disputes through negotiations, mediation, good offices and other measures embodied in the Charter of the United Nations should be encouraged.