

to be Tamadi by the Eastern Railway in the last three consecutive years ;

(b) what is existing policy of Government to pay off Demurrage claims ,

(c) whether Government are aware of the existence of any claim agents in the field of Railway claims, and

(d) if so, what measures are proposed to be adopted to restrain them and to meet the claims immediately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

Punctuality of Fast train No. 271 of Western Railway

7791. PROJ P G MAVALANKAR Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state ,

(a) whether it is a fact that the so-called fast train on Western Railway No. 271 leaving Bhavanagar (in Saurashtra, the Gujarat) daily at 2 a.m., arrives at several station—Botad and onwards upto Limdi station—late by half an hour to 45 minutes almost every day,

(b) if so, reasons therefor,

(c) whether Government are aware that such regularly irregular arrivals result into considerable difficulties including loss of daily—full or half wages for many commuters and wage-earners, and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to remedy and improve the said situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) : (a) During the 4 months from December 1978 to March, 1979, 271 Fast Passenger ran to time on 64 days

(b) & (c) The performance of this trains has been adversely affected due to various operational difficulties

(d) Instructions have been issued to intensify supervision and to specially monitor the running of this passenger train on a daily basis.

Heart Patient

7792. SHRI HALIMUDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of heart patients in the country at present and their number State wise ,

(b) whether the Central Government are giving any assistance to heart patients or trust for assistance to those patients and if so the amount of assistance provided for each operation at present or when it is proposed to be given , and

(c) the amount of assistance given for operation to be performed in A.I.M.S. up to March 1979 with full particulars thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI RAY) : (a) Available information in respect of the number of patients treated for various types of heart diseases in the country is given in statement I laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See No. 114336/79]

(b) No Grants in deserving cases are however given to poor patients for treatment including operations from out of Health Minister's Discretionary Grant

(c) The details of the grants given during 1978-79 to deserving patients from the Health Minister's Discretionary Grant for heart operations carried out in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences is given in Statement II laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See No. 114— /79]

Withdrawal of supplementary surcharges on Reserved Accommodation

7793. SHRI HALIMUDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have withdrawn the supplementary surcharges levied on reserved accommodation in the super fast trains in respect of Esprit Express, Steel Express, Kovan Express and Howrah Asansol Express

(b) whether this withdrawal is in respect of all classes of accommodation, and

(c) whether Government are proposing to extend these facilities to Pinnakia Mail also which is a super fast train and if so, by what time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) : (a) Yes with effect from 1-2-1979

(b) Yes

(c) No