

Fly-over Project at Delhi Cantt. Nangal Raya Station

5220. SHRI NATVERLAL B. PARMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3302 on the 13th December, 1978 and state:

(a) whether the fly-over project at Delhi Cantt. Nangal Raya station has been finally cleared by the inter-Ministerial Committee to which it was referred to last year;

(b) if so, when the actual construction and other allied works pertaining to this fly-over are likely to be taken in hand;

(c) the steps being taken to expedite the project in order to remove the serious traffic bottleneck at the point; and

(d) the targeted date by which the project is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) to (d). Keeping in view the requirements of the Delhi Cantt. area, it was decided in the inter-departmental meetings held on 20-11-78 and 20-12-78 to change the alignment/diversion of the proposed over bridge. The question of directing the flow of traffic along Maude road and Ring road and the details of the modifications etc. to be made were to be worked out jointly by the Army authorities and MCD Engineers. Necessary survey has since been completed. A final decision will depend upon further discussions which are expected to be held shortly.

Death of Indian workers in Lebanon

5221. SHRI BHAGAT RAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether six or more Indian workers were killed in 1978 who were

working with M/s. Robert Girgi Haji Monsourie Matn, Beirut (Lebanon);

(b) what are the details of those killings;

(c) whether their nearest relations in India have been informed when they asked for their whereabouts;

(d) whether their belongings were sent to their nearest relatives and they were adequately compensated; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU):

(a) to (e). Our Embassy in Lebanon has made enquiries into the matter and no information suggesting death of any Indian workers employed with M/s. Robert Girgi Haji Monsourie Matn, Beirut has come to hand. In spite of unsafe conditions and risks involved due to sniping and shelling Embassy Representative personally contacted M/s. Robert Girgi Haji Monsourie Matn who denied death of any Indian worker employed in his factory.

The Indian Embassy has also pointed out that most Indian nationals who work as labourers have not registered themselves with the Embassy. They are reported to be working as casual labour and moving from one place to another as and when they get better wages. However, continuous liaison is being maintained with the Government of Lebanon to ascertain the welfare of Indian workers.

Trains from Jhansi and Agra to Howrah

5222. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a representation from the citizens of Gwalior for introduction of fast running train from Jhansi to Howrah via Gwalior-Agra-Tundla, Kanpur, Mughal

Sarai-Patna-Howrah and Agra to Howrah via Gwalior-Jhansi-Kanpur-Allahabad-Mughal Sarai-Gaya-Howrah; and

(b) if so, his reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). The proposal to introduce a train between Jhansi and Howrah via Gwalior-Agra-Tundla etc. and Agra and Howrah via Gwalior-Jhansi-Allahabad-Gaya is neither justified on traffic considerations nor operationally feasible due to lack of line capacity on sections en route and inadequate terminal facilities at Howrah.

Discriminatory treatment towards rural areas on health expenditure

5224. SHRI RAJ KESHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 20 per cent of the total budget earmarked for health by the State and Central Government is spent on 80 per cent of the population living in the rural areas and 80 per cent of the total budget is spent on 20 per cent of the population living in the urban areas;

(b) if so, the reason for discriminatory treatment towards rural areas; and

(c) steps proposed to be taken to ensure equal medical facilities in both the areas of the country in proportion to the population?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI RAY): (a) and (b). Due to historical reasons it is admitted that there has been significant imbalance in the development of health services in the rural areas as compared to similar services in the urban areas. As the facilities provided in the medical and health institutions cater to all segments of the population in the urban and the rural areas, it cannot be stated

precisely as to how much of the Plan and non-Plan expenditures have been spent to service the urban and the rural areas, respectively.

(c) Efforts are being made through the planning process to provide a greater share of the available resources for the rural areas. The policy towards the promotion of health and family welfare services has been reviewed to ensure the improvement of the situation in the rural areas and this has been clearly stated in the policy frame of the chapter on Health and Family Welfare of the Plan Document—Five Year Plan 1978—83 which states:

“(i) the main objective in the plan will be to provide better health care and medical care services to the rural areas and the poor people;

(ii) vigorous steps will be taken to launch a community based programme of health care and medical services in rural areas, this being the most neglected sector needs priority;

(iii) no linear expansion of curative services in urban areas will be permitted except in a few areas where the need for such expansion is justified on sound principles of need and priority”.

Within the above broad objectives, special schemes already taken up towards the promotion of health care services exclusively for rural areas are (i) Community Health Workers programme which envisages one community health worker for a population of one thousand; (ii) Re-orientation of Medical Education with the objective of involving medical colleges in the promotion of health care facilities through adoption of primary health centres located in rural areas; and (iii) Revised Minimum Needs Programme pertaining to primary health centres, subcentres, upgraded referral rural hospitals etc.