

The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

Food Supply in Eastern Railway

355. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that substandard food is supplied in the Eastern Railway and the utensils are dirty;

(b) if so, what action Government contemplate to improve the food supply;

(c) whether it is also a fact that complete bed rolls are not supplied according to the norms prescribed by Railways; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to set right the affairs in Eastern Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b). The quality of food supplied by Eastern Railways has been generally satisfactory and the utensils used for preparation and service of food are also generally clean. Suitable punitive and remedial action is taken to improve the service in cases of complaints and in cases of lapses found during checks.

(c) and (d). No. In cases of specific complaints, remedial action is always taken. The railway has been instructed to keep a special watch on the supply of bed rolls.

Representation regarding facilities of CGHS to P & T Pensioners

356. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a representation dated the 7th April, 1979 from All India Posts, Telegraph and other Central Government Pensioners Associa-

tion, PUNE (Maharashtra) requesting the Government to extend facilities of the Central Government Health Scheme to the Post and Telegraph Pensioners;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken the decision in the matter; and

(c) if so, the nature thereof; and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question of extension of CGHS facilities to the All India P & T Pensioners, at Pune, Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Jaipur on the pattern as available to Central Government pensioners, has been duly considered in this Ministry, but the facilities cannot be extended to P & T Pensioners, at these four places as the serving P & T employees have not agreed to come under the CGHS. As and when the serving P & T employees, at these four places join the scheme, the scheme may be extended to the P & T pensioners at these four places.

U.N. Aid to India for Family Planning

357. SHRI JAI NARAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have received U.N. aid for the family planning programme for 1980-84; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and allocation of funds to States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b) No financial assistance has so far been received from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), an agency of the United Nations, for the Family Planning Programmes for 1980-84. However, it is expected that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development

Programme, which sanctions funds for UNFPA activities will approve during the course of 1980, a programme of assistance for Family Planning activities in India amounting to about 100 million dollars for the period of 5 years 1980-84 (Calendar Year). Details of the schemes are being worked out but the assistance will also be used for development of Health and Family Welfare infrastructure and facilities in selected districts of Bihar (6) and Rajasthan (3) on the lines of similar schemes being developed for foreign assistance in some selected districts of some other States as well.

All India Permits for Trucks

358 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to issue new All India Permits for trucks; and

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued to the States?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):

(a) There is no proposal at present to increase the number of National Permits.

(b) Does not arise.

Steam traction in Railways

359. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to go partially for steam traction; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). The traction policy of the Indian Railways has been to progressively

dieselise/electrify the main trunk routes hauling majority of the freight and passenger traffic on overall economic considerations. Steam locos are therefore being gradually phased out, on their completing useful life. No change in this policy is being contemplated.

Difference in Freight Rates

360. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a difference in freight rates of Central Railway and Western Railway for the distance for carriage of bananas;

(b) if so, what is the difference per 1000 Kms. and why is it so; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to do away with such disparity in freight rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c). There is no difference in freight at goods or coaching tariff rates. There is, however, a difference when the traffic is moved under station to station rates, which are quoted as lump-sum rates between fixed pairs of points and take into account several factors. These rates are reviewed from time to time.

Trains cancelled in Gujarat State

361. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of trains cancelled in Gujarat State during the last few months due to shortage of coal;

(b) whether Government are considering to resume services of the trains; and

(c) if so, the names of trains proposed to be resumed in Gujarat and when?