

Besides, the Ministry of Works & Housing has rendered assistance during the last five years to the extent of Rs. 618 lakhs for the development of 5 ring towns under the National Capital Region Plan Viz, Meerut, Gurgaon, Alwar Panipat and Hapur to reduce the pressure on Delhi's population. During the current year a sum of Rs. 75 lakhs has been provided for giving assistance to these ring towns. These ring towns are intended to serve as counter magnets in order to divert away immigrant population from Delhi.

Reservation in Trains

1259 SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the travelling public are finding it difficult to get reservation in trains for long journey travel particularly from Bangalore to Bombay or Delhi etc. and so also, the return journey; and

(b) if so, the steps which Government propose to take to see that accommodation is made available for long journey travel?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). some difficulties are experienced by passengers during summer rush period. Additional coaches are provided on trains to clear wait-listed passengers. Reservation quotas are allotted in the summer specials for passengers originating from Bangalore area.

It has since been decided to double head 125|126 Bangalore-Trivandrum-New Delhi K. K. Express and also augment the load of 303|304 Mahalaxmi Express to provide more accommodation for passengers. The position will ease as soon as these are given effect to.

618 LS—3

Need of Wagons for Transportation of Coal from BCCL

1260 SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wagons needed daily for transporting coal from Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and Bharat Coking Coal Limited to meet the requirements of Industrial units and power houses;

(b) whether there is any gap between the requirement and supply of wagons for coal loading; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to remove the gap?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Under ideal conditions ECL and BCCL should require a total of 3600 wagons per day for industries, power houses, steel plants, Railways and others.

(b) Yes.

(c) Power supply interruptions are presently affecting production of coal, as well as its movement by rail. As soon as power supply position improves, the rate of loading is also expected to improve.

Conversion of M.C. Road as National Highway

1261. SHRI V. S. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the centre to convert the Main Central Road as National Highway;

(b) whether the centre has rejected the proposal;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would reconsider the proposal?