

voluntary cut in the intake of loco coal for railway services had been resorted to. Instructions have, however, been issued to the coal loading Railways to step up loading to meet the requirements of Railways at a reasonably satisfactory level.

Decentralisation of Working of Railway Board

472. SHRI HARINATH MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decentralise the working of Railway Board; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No change in the basic infrastructure of the Railways' management is proposed. The General Managers, Divisional Railway Managers and officers below on the Zonal Railways/Production Units have been delegated necessary powers for effective functioning of the Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

Derailments of Goods Trains

473. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4322 on the 11th December, 1980 regarding slow speed of goods trains and state:

(a) whether the figures for derailments of goods trains given by him show that there were, on the average, 1.3 derailments every day throughout 1979-80;

(b) whether it is a fact that such frequent derailments are causing regular dislocation in running of Mail and Express trains, causing great public inconvenience; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) Train derailments do have a repercussion on traffic.

(c) Since failure of railway staff is the largest single factor responsible for accidents, safety organisations on the railways have been engaged in a relentless campaign to create greater safety consciousness amongst the staff connected with running of trains and to ensure that staff do not violate rules or indulge in short-cut methods that may lead to accidents.

Examination of trains and spot checks in carriage and wagon depots have been intensified and greater care is being paid to the proper maintenance of track. In order to reduce dependence on the human element, sophisticated aids like ultrasonic flaw detectors for wheels, axles and rails, axle counters, track circuiting etc. are being introduced progressively.

उत्तर प्रदेश में कन्हर नदी पर पुल

474. श्री राम प्यारे पनिका : क्या नौबहन और परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि तत्कालीन नौबहन और परिवहन मंत्री श्री चांद राम ने उत्तर प्रदेश के मिर्जापुर जिले में कन्हर नदी पर पुल का शिलान्यास किया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब और इसके पूरा होने की तिथि क्या है ; और

(ग) पुल के निर्माण में कितनी प्रगति हुई है और इसका निर्माण कार्य कब तक पूरा होगा ?

नौबहन और परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह): (क) और (ख). प्रस्तावित कन्हर पुल निर्माण के पश्चात् राज्य सड़क पर पड़ेगा। इसलिए इसका सम्बन्ध

राज्य सरकार से होगा। मार्च, 1979 में भारत सरकार ने 66.6 लाख रुपये के अनुदान का अनुमोदन किया था जो कि इस पुल के निर्माण की 200 लाख रु० की लागत का एक तिहाई भाग है जो कन्हार तथा सतवाहनी नदी पर दुधी विद्यमगंज सड़क पर पड़ता है। बाकी लागत उत्तर प्रदेश तथा बिहार सरकारों द्वारा अपने संसाधनों से वहन की जानी थी। परन्तु बाद में बिहार सरकार ने कन्हार पुल की लागत वहन करने में अममर्थता प्रकट की क्योंकि यह पुल उत्तर प्रदेश की सीमा में 13 मील अन्दर आता है। इसके विकल्प के रूप में उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार से कन्हार पुल की 50 प्रतिशत लागत वहन करने का अनुरोध किया गया। इस मामले में केन्द्रीय सरकार बाकी 50 प्रतिशत लागत को वहन करने के प्रश्न पर विचार कर सकती है। इस सम्बन्ध में उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के विचार अभी प्राप्त नहीं हुये हैं। आगे की कार्यवाही धन सम्बन्धी प्रश्न को हल करने के बाद ही की जा सकती है।

Use of Sub-Standard Ophthalmic Lenses

475. SHRI RAGHUNATH SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, at present, the gap between the demand and supply of ophthalmic rough blank glasses is met by import of window glass sheets used by the indigenous processor of optical power lenses as it is cheaper and is being generally used by the weaker sections of society and people from the rural areas;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the use of window glass sheet is harmful to the human eye and because of its use the eye cataract cases have increased ten-folds; and

(c) if so the precise steps taken by Government to check the use of sub-standard ophthalmic lenses, manufactured by using window glass sheets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes.

(b) It is a fact that the use of window glass is harmful to human eyes. However, no study so far been conducted to evaluate the incidence of cataract on account of the use of such glasses.

(c) A proposal to ban the practice of use and sale of inferior quality glass through legislation is under consideration.

Wagon Supply to Foreign Countries

476. SHRI MOHAMMAD ASRAR AHMAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of foreign countries who have placed orders of entred into agreement for supply of wagons and passenger coaches which are still subsisting and supplies not completed/orders accepted but supply has not begun;

(b) the number of wagons, passenger coaches and other Railway material contracted to be supplied and period by which it is to be fully complied with;

(c) the yearly capacity of Government and its allied undertakings and of private firms for manufacture of wagons, passenger coaches and other Railway goods, yearly production in 1978, 1979 and 1980 by each such manufacturer and percentage of same and names of manufacturers;

(d) the number of wagons and passenger coaches in operation and number of sick and reserve as stand-by during 1978-79 and 1980 separately; and

(e) the actual requirement of same by the Indian Railway within next three years and requirement expected to be made in each year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIA-