

**Loss of Railway Consignments**

3627. SHRI MANMOHAN TUDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the loss of railway consignments is increasing every month;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the first four months of this year consignments worth Rs. 1.96 crores booked on the railways were either stolen or pilfered;

(c) if so, whether any case has been registered and culprits have been booked;

(d) the action taken so far against the employees responsible for the loss of consignments; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to check the missing of railways consignments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) An increasing trend is noticeable in losses due to thefts and pilferages of booked consignments during the current year.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). During January—April, 1981, 1932 cases were registered in this regard and 1721 out-siders and 201 railways employees were arrested. Their cases are being pursued.

(e) The following preventive measures are being taken by the Railways for prevention of theft and pilferages of booked consignments:—

(i) As far as possible, wagons containing high valued commodities, when running in block loads, are being escorted by RPF personnel.

(ii) All important and vulnerable yards, goods sheds, etc. are guarded round-the-clock by RPF personnel.

(iii) Special attention is being paid to places which are known as plack spots.

(iv) RPF staff are detailed at vulnerable outer signals, engineering restrictions, and upgradients where the trains slow down.

(v) At way-side stations when loads are stabled, they are guarded by RPF staff.

(vi) Intelligence about movement and activities of criminals and receivers of stolen railway property is collected by the Crime Intelligence Branch of the RPF and raids are conducted to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.

(vii) Close coordination is maintained by the Railway Protection Force with the Government Railway Police and Civil Police for effectively tackling the problem of thefts and pilferages on Railways.

**US and Chinese Decision to Supply Pakistan Air Reconnaissance Aid**

3628. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported US and Chinese Government decision to supply to Pakistan special air reconnaissance aid including Advance Warning Control System; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's assessment as to how far it is likely to affect India's security and Air defence?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Government have seen various reports describing the scope and content of the arms deal between the USA and Pakistan which is reported to be still under negotiation. Government have no authentic information on supply to Pakistan of any

specific air reconnaissance system of advance warning and control system by the USA or any other country.

(b) Government would like to obtain confirmation of the supply and the quantity involved in (a) above before making an assessment.

**Facilities to Handicapped Children for Admission at Primary Stage, Scholarship, etc.**

3629. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

SHRI R. N. RAKESH;

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO;

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to extend certain facilities to the handicapped children during the 'International Year for Disabled Persons';

(b) if so, the details regarding these facilities with reference to the admission to such children from the primary stage Scholarships; and

(c) what are the other facilities that are being extended in favour of such handicapped children particularly in the Capital?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL):** (a) and (b). Some of the existing programmes for handicapped children have been strengthened and new programme have also been evolved during this year. Significant programmes/schemes are as under:

(1) Special schools for providing in the country. Some of these education to different categories of handicapped children are functioning in the country. Some of these schools are run by Government of India/State Government, while others are being run by voluntary organisations.

(ii) Assistance is provided by Government of India to voluntary organisations under the "Scheme of assistance to voluntary organisations" for setting up facilities for education, training and rehabilitation. Under this scheme 90 per cent cost of new projects is funded by the Government.

(iii) Under the revised scheme of integrated education introduced from 1.4.1981, Government of India meets 100 per cent of the cost of education of handicapped children in the normal school system on certain items on a fixed scale. These are, among other things, salary of teachers, cost of books and stationery, assessment cost and cost of initial equipment.

(iv) Scholarships are given by Government of India under the "Scheme of Scholarships for the Blind, the Deaf and the Orthopaedically Handicapped" to children from Class IX onwards to pursue education or implant training. Most of the State Governments/ Union Territories have schemes of giving the scholarships to children up to class VII.

(v) A new scheme of giving assistance for purchase of aids and appliances for the handicapped persons including children has been introduced during the current calendar year. Under this scheme aids and appliances are given to handicapped persons free if the income of handicapped persons or his parents is Rs. 750/- per month and at 50 per cent of the cost if the income is from Rs. 751—1500/- per month. Aids and appliances up to the value of Rs. 1500/- can be given under this scheme. Limb fitting, low vision aids, hearing aids and other aids and appliances can be given to the handicapped persons/ children for their physical, social or economic rehabilitation.

(c) The schemes referred to above are applicable in Delhi also. Some of the specific schemes formu-