

has been stream-lined by the N.F. Railway Administration to ensure prompt attention to the reservation messages received there and replies sent.

Sick Shipping Companies

7180. SHRI LAKSHMAN MAL-LICK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is going to initiate a policy which will promote merger of sick shipping companies with relatively healthier ones;

(b) if so, when such decision is proposed to be taken by the Government to save the sick shipping units from going into liquidation; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Review of Prohibition Policy

7181. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which are dry at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the deaths due to illicit liquor is more in dry States; and

(c) if so, whether Government will review its policy in regard to Prohibition?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Total prohibition is in force in Gujarat.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Residential Card Pass

7182. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the employees working in the important stations of Railway, the Residential Card Pass facility is extended to Stations situated over 50 or 100 Kilo-metres;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for giving that facility to the employees with headquarters at Trivandrum; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide the facility of residential card pass up to Quilon and Nagarcoil on either side for all staff with Headquarters at Trivandrum?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Residential Card Passes are permitted to railway employees over the sections where such a facility was in existence prior to 14-12-53. In cases where residential railway colonies are located at long distances from the place of work and cause considerable hardship and inconvenience to the staff in question, extension of the facility to new sections is considered on merits of each case.

Consequent on the formation of Trivandrum Division in 1979, the staff rendered surplus and transferred from adjoining Divisions and stationed at Trivandrum were granted residential card passes upto Quilon and Neyyattinkara, a distance of 65 and 17 kms. respectively for Trivandrum, as purely an incentive to earlier transferees valid upto 23-6-82 but not open to new entrants.

There is no proposal under consideration to extend the facility between Trivandrum and Nagercoil (71 mks.).