

(b) whether it is also a fact that the sick and over-aged wagons are increasing day by day;

(c) if so, total number of these types of wagons in the country at present; and

(d) steps to be taken by the Government to replace them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Sick wagons are those wagons undergoing repairs in the Workshops and Transportation depots. Such wagons only after being made fit in all respects are used for train services. Some over-aged wagons are continued in service only if road-worthy and fit in all respects. By using such wagons safety is not compromised in any way.

(b) Sick wagons, or wagons under repairs, increased during the last two years primarily due to shortage of maintenance capacity in workshops, shortage of power supply and non-supply of vital components. However, during 1982, the Broad gauge sick wagon percentage has improved slightly. The number of overaged wagons has come down from about 37,800 as on 31-3-81 to 28,000 on 31.3.82.

(c) Total sick wagons (BG & MG) were about 33,500 during April 1982, and overaged wagons 28000 as on 31-3-82.

(d) For reducing sick wagons maintenance capacity in the workshops and depots is being increased substantially. For instance, against an average out-turn of 7450 wagons periodical overhaul per month during 1981-82, the out-turn for June 1982 was 8320. Similar improvements have been achieved in the depots. This will reduce the number of sick wagons. Number of overaged wagons is already reducing. During the Sixth Plan period it is proposed to use 50,000 wagons out of a total procurement of 78,000 wagons for replacement. Simultaneously

steps are also being taken to condemn over-aged wagons.

Conversion of Bhatinda-Kotkapura-Fazilka Railway Line

4. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: III

(a) whether the survey for the conversion of Bhatinda-Kotkapura is Fazilka Railway line of Northern Railway from metre gauge to broad gauge has since been completed;

(b) if so, the findings of the survey and the likely date for the execution of the project;

(c) if not, the likely date by which the survey would be completed and the work commenced; and

(d) the reasons for delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The survey is expected to be completed by middle of 1983.

(d) The delay is due to very large number of surveys in progress on the Northern Railway and higher priority being given to surveys for defence works and other line capacity works required to generate transport capacity on the railway system.

Ragging in Educational Institutions

5. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

SHRI D.S.A. SIVAPAKASAM:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Education has sent letters to various State Governments and Universities to ban ragging in the educational institutions;

(b) whether ragging will not be permitted from the current educational year (July, 1982); and

(c) the steps taken by various Universities to implement the above decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Steps suggested by the Government to Universities are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Suggested Steps for Fighting Ragging in Educational Institutions

1. Ragging in any form inside or outside the campus should be banned by executive order of the head of the institution/university.

2. Senior students found indulging in ragging junior students should be summarily expelled from the institution/university.

3. The head of the institution/university should write before the start of the new session, to the parents/guardians of students in senior classes informing them of the possible consequences of ragging and requesting them to instruct their wards against getting involved in ragging.

4. Full publicity should be given to the punishment for ragging through open circulars to students and suitable posters in halls of residence.

5. Telephone numbers of senior faculty/administrative officers be given to every new entrant with the advice that they should report all incidents of ragging through these numbers even anonymously, if circumstances warranted.

6. Senior students of halls of residence should be invited to cooperate with the faculty and the administration in combating this evil.

7. Squads consisting of wardens, other senior faculty, senior students

and security staff should do regular patrolling throughout the night in the halls of residences where new entrants live, at least for the first month of the opening of the term.

8. A programme of extra-mural activities, e.g. drama, debates, quizzes, etc., should be planned for every evening of the first month of the opening of the term so that students will be engaged in constructive activities and will have little time for pranks. These activities will also help new comers to get adjusted to the new environment.

9. All new entrants should be attached in small groups to senior faculty member who should help in the process of adjustment of students to the new environment and serve as an academic and personal tutor.

10. A high level standing committee consisting of faculty and senior students and administrative officers be set up with the head of the institute/university as chairman to keep a periodical watch on the situation.

Expansion Development and Maintenance of National Highways

6. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be spent on the expansion, development and maintenance of National Highways during the current plan period;

(b) whether the National Highways have got adequate thickness to meet requirement or present traffic and loading; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI SITA RAM KESARI): (a) The Sixth (1980-85) Plan, includes a provision of Rs 660 crores for the development and expansion of the existing National High-