

drug testing facilities and setting up of Intelligence Cells in the various States.

Accidents on inter-city motorways

118. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Ministry has prepared a scheme and forwarded the same to the States for consideration in regard to the setting up of country-wide system for alerting highway police medical teams and wreckage clearance about accidents on inter-city motorways;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the scheme and the total expenditure involved; and

(c) whether State Governments have accepted the proposal on the condition that the expenditure will be met by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI SITA RAM KESARI):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme envisages setting up of Traffic Aid Posts at every 50 Kms. along National Highways, to serve as monitoring centres to flash news of accidents if and when occurred and to ensure wreckage clearance as well as to provide First-aid, to the victims involved in the accidents. On the basis of present estimates, the recurring annual expenditure on manning and operations of each of the traffic aid post will be of the order of Rs 50,000, while the non-recurring expenditure is estimated at Rs 2.50 lakhs.

(c) Though some of the States had earlier mentioned about the possibility of financial assistance in this regard, the Transport Ministers in the meeting held on 31-5-82 have agreed to the implementation of highway patrolling scheme.

Railway Accident at Gummidipundi station near Madras on 3 June, 1982

119. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an accident took place on June 3, 1982 at Gummidipundi station near Madras in which a goods train hit the rear of a suburban electric train;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured in the accident;

(c) whether the causes of the accident have been investigated; and

(d) whether any compensation has been given to the injured and the relatives of the persons killed?

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

(b) In this accident, 9 persons were killed, 9 sustained grievous injuries and 17 simply injuries.

(c) The Commissioner of Railways Safety, Southern Circle Bangalore, has held his statutory inquiry into the accident. According to his provisional finding, the accident was due to failure of railway staff.

(d) A sum of Rs. 19,250/- has been paid as ex-gratia to the next of kin of those killed and to the injured persons. No claim for compensation has been received so far.

Uniform Educational Policy

120 SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA:

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DAN-
DAVATE:

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

(a) whether Government propose to appoint another Commission to evaluate and consider a fresh uniform education Policy throughout the country on the basis of the recommendations of Kothari Commission and the experience gained during the years and the increase in population; and

(b) if not, what are the plans to streamline the education policy to bring about effective integration of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The existing National Policy on Education continues to be the guiding Principle for the development of education in the country along with the Sixth Five-Year Plan document. This Policy envisages a radical reconstruction of education for economic and cultural development and National integration. It already includes programmes like free and compulsory education, development of languages, equalization of educational opportunities, spread of literacy, adult education and a uniform educational structure. These programmes play a vital role in the process of integration of the country.

Working Group for relief to Shipping Industry

121. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA:

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDA-VATE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Working Group to explore possibilities of relief to the Shipping Industry;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Group would also consider re-scheduling of loans from the Shipping Development Fund Committee; and

(d) when the working Group is expected to submit its proposals?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) In order to study the representation made by Indian National Ship owners Association for extending financial assistance to the shipping industry in the wake of the recent depression in freight, an informal Working Group has been set up. The Group will make recommendations to the Government about the extent of financial assistance to be rendered to the shipping industry on a case to case basis.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposals from the Working Group are likely to be received during this month.

Patronising Indian ships

122. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Export-Import Houses continue to patronise foreign shipping lines;

(b) whether Government have decided to give six months grace period to these traders to switch over to Indian ships; and

(c) if so, what penalties are envisaged for the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Indian Export-Import Houses use both Indian and foreign shipping lines. However, the share of Indian Lines is less—only about 33.9 per cent in respect of general cargo and about 32.3 per cent in the total sea-borne trade of India during 1980-81.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.