

(c) and (d). Government of India is aware that the natural flow in the river Ganga at Farakka during the lean season is not adequate to meet the full requirements of India and the reasonable needs lower down in Bangladesh. For this purpose, the Central Government has been endeavouring to augment the flows at Farakka and India has proposed Brahmaputra-Ganga Link Canal Project. Pursuant to the visit of H.E. Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad and the signing of Indo-Bangladesh Memorandum of Understanding on 7th October, 1982 by the Foreign Ministers of India and Bangladesh, the two countries have agreed to expedite studies of the economic and technical feasibilities of the Schemes which had been proposed by the either side in order to settle upon the optimum augmentation solution for urgent implementation.

**Amendment of laws to stop malpractices in Railways**

3917. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government consider it necessary to suitably amend certain laws to stop the malpractices that have entered into the functioning of the Railways;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since identified such laws;

(c) if so, the manner in which such amendments are to be made; and

(d) steps already taken in that direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d). The Indian Railways Act, 1890 is under review in consultation with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs with a view to replace it with a new piece of legislation to bring it in line with the present day conditions.

**Service improvement Group Scheme**

3918. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of "Services Improvement Group Scheme" of the Railway Ministry; and

(b) the steps being taken by individual Zonal Railways to implement this scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). The "Services Improvement Group" Scheme envisages the setting up of multi-disciplinary teams of officers charged with the responsibility of bringing about improvements in specific areas like Reservations, cleanliness at stations and in trains, maintenance of coaches, catering services, etc. As the problems are multi-faceted involving the functioning of different departments of Railways, the multi-discipline character of Service Improvement Groups ensures co-ordinated and comprehensive action. Railways have set up several groups or task force at headquarters/divisional/station levels to bring about all round improvements.

**Dropout of Scheduled Tribes students at primary levels**

3919. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of large-scale dropout of Scheduled Tribe students from the educational institutions particularly at primary levels;

(b) whether any State-wise enquiry has been conducted to know the reasons of dropout;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and