

trains in the Sealdah-Lalgola Section of the Eastern Railways have been running unusually late for the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) steps proposed to run the trains according to scheduled time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, the punctuality of these trains has not been satisfactory.

(b) Main reasons for poor punctuality were unauthorised alarm chain pulling, disconnection of hose pipes and other miscreant activities. Other contributory factors were locomotive failures, speed restrictions due to poor condition of track etc.

(c) The older types of locomotives are being gradually replaced by more modern locomotives. Additional ballast and other permanent way inputs are being provided to remove the speed restrictions. The punctuality of the trains is being watched on day-to-day basis and individual lapses are being suitable taken up.

#### Shortage of Beds in Hospitals in the Capital

3104. SHRI GULSHER AHMED:

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a general shortage of beds in Government hospitals in the Capital;

(b) if so, the number of beds available and the estimated shortage; and

(c) what measures are contemplated to meet the shortage and how much time it is likely to be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI):

(a) and (b). As against the Bhoire Committee's projection of 5.67 beds per 1000 population, there are 13,163 beds in Delhi

spread over 63 hospitals, including 9156 beds in 42 hospitals run by Government and Local Bodies.

(c) Two 500 bedded hospitals, one each at Shahdhra and Harinagar are under construction. The Sixth Five Year Plan also provides for three 100 bedded hospitals, one each at Mangolpuri, Khichripur and Jaffarpur.

#### Sethus Amudram Project

3105. SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR:

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

(a) whether there is a project called Sethusanduram Project to build a canal around the top of the Indian coast for the passing of ships between East Coast and West Coast;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted for the same; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A Committee of Officers under chairmanship of Development Adviser (Ports) in this Ministry has been set up to examine the economic viability of the project. The Committee's Report is expected shortly.

फोटो कापी की प्रक्रिया के दौरान कैंसर होने का संभवना

3106. श्री कमला निश्र मुखर्जी : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान इस वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान की ओर दिलाया गया