

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The suggestions had been considered and a reply was sent to the Committee.

The status paper on the Indian Railways was issued to gather public opinion, and the responses received will form inputs for long term policy formulation.

Development of Elaveezha Poonchira in Kerala

2905. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal to develop Elaveezha Poonchira a hill resort near Melukavu in Kottayam district in Kerala;

(b) the total amount of allocation made for the purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRIMADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Development of Erumely in Kottayam, Kerala

2906. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Erumely in Kottayam district of Kerala is a pilgrimage centre visited by lakhs of people from all over India and abroad every year;

(b) the number of tourists visit these every year;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the lack of facilities to contain the huge crowd which increases year by year;

(d) whether the Government propose to declare it as an international tourist-pilgrimage centre and allocate financial assistance to uplift and develop the place; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Erumely is an important pilgrim centre in Kerala. The relevant statistics regarding the number of tourists visiting the centre are not available from the State Government.

(c) to (e). The Ministry has no scheme for declaring any place as an international tourist centre. The development of any place for tourist is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Central Government extends some financial assistance to the State Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from them, subject to the availability of funds and inter-se priorities. State Government of Kerala have not proposed any scheme for development of Erumely during 1991-92.

[*Translation*]

Palace on Wheels

2907. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists travelled by 'Palace on Wheels' train during the last three years, the income earned therefrom, year-wise and the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the names of the stations through which it passes;

(c) whether there is persistent demand from foreign tourists to provide a stoppage of this train at Ajmer; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the

Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-
LIKARJUN): (a) The information is given
below:—

	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
(i) No. of foreign tourists travelled	2123	2134	1815
(ii) Income earned from foreign tourists (Rs. in lakhs)	191.12	230.18	250.32
(iii) Expenditure incurred on Palace on Wheels train by Railways and Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation. (Rs. in lakhs)	189.46	219.45	244.30

(b) Starting from Delhi Cantt., the train passes through Jaipur-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur-Jaisalmer-Jodhpur-Bharatpur-Agra and then returns to Delhi Cantt.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Rail Bridges in Kota

2908. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision to construct a bridge for railway employees working in Kota city;

(b) if so, whether it has been constructed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it will be constructed;

(d) whether any bridge is proposed to be constructed on the road leading to Rangpur and industrial complex; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) to (c). A road underbridge was included in Works Programme 1988-89 but on representation from staff union for construction of an overbridge, it was not taken up for construction. The plans and estimate for the overbridge have not yet been finalised. The work will be taken up for execution, after the sanction of the estimate.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Railway has not so far received from the State Government any firm proposal for the facility, duly consenting to share the cost, as per rules.

Shifting of Kota Airport

2909. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to shift Kota airport of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be shifted;

(c) the progress made in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) It is not considered necessary to shift the airport.

Sheds on Stations of Shamgarh-Gangapur Section (WR)

2910. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the railway stations on Shamgarh-Gangapur City section of Western Railway where sheds have not been provided;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct sheds on these stations; and

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) Kota City.