

Navodaya Vidyalayas of at least 75% children from rural areas. Wide publicity is given through various media to apprise children of the scheme to attract the talented ones from rural areas.

[*Translation*]

Food Served on Board by Indian Airlines

*384. SHRI YASHWANTRAOPATIL:
SHRI KARIA MUNDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of food served on board by Indian Airlines is sub-standard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have invited tenders on competitive basis in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to improve the quality of the food?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Contracts for food served on Indian Airlines flights are finalised only on the basis of rates obtained against tender enquiries and subsequent price negotiations, as considered necessary.

(d) The following steps are taken by Indian Airlines to ensure the quality of food:

(i) Pre-flight quality checks and periodical inspection of catering establishments are undertaken by quali-

fied catering staff to ensure quality control;

(ii) Periodical inspection of caterers' establishment/units by medical officers of Indian Airlines is done to ensure maintenance of proper hygienic conditions in the areas where food is prepared, stored, preset and loaded;

(iii) Punitive action is taken against the caterers whenever deficiencies are noticed.

[*English*]

Singing of National Anthem in Delhi Schools

*385. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Administration has directed all its schools to sing National Anthem before the beginning of classes;

(b) whether this direction has been implemented by all the schools; and

(c) if not, the action proposed to be taken to have this direction implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information given by the Delhi Administration, no report regarding non-implementation of direction has been received by them.

(c) Does not arise.

Direct Railway Line Between Humnabad and Hyderabad

4059. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct direct railway line from Humnabad to Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Train Accidents on Kodarma-Gaya Section

4060. SHRI BHUVNESHVAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one or two train accidents generally take place every month particularly at Gujhandi and Gurapa between Kodarma and Gaya on the Grand Chord rail line;

(b) whether a mafia group is involved in looting railway goods worth lakhs of rupees in each accident resulting in loss of crores of rupees to railways every year; and

(c) if so, the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such accidents and save the loss to the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. There were only 4 derailments between Gujhandi and Gurapa stations on the Grand Chord section during the first eight months of the current financial year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Some of the important steps otherwise being taken to reduce accidents are

induction of technical devices to aid the human element, intensive and frequent inspections of sensitive installations, monitoring the performance of critical safety categories such as drivers, guards and station masters and patrolling of track etc.

Restructuring of Pay of Technical Supervisors in Northern Railway

4061. SHRI TEJNARAYAN SINGH:
SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Technical Supervisors at present in the Water Supply Department of Northern Railway;

(b) whether there supervisors are drawing less pay than their counterparts in the other Departments of Northern Railway;

(c) whether any case of restructuring of pay of these supervisors is pending since long;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) 5 (Two Inspector of Works Grade II in scale Rs. 1600-2660 and Three Inspector of Works Grade -III and scale Rs. 1400-2300).

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Profit earned by CONCOR.
4062. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: