

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMNR) : (a) The incidence of Thalassaemia is dependent upon the carrier status of the marriage partner.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Pre-marital genetic counselling followed by avoidance of marriage among carriers is the only method to prevent this disease. Alternate method is to implement a programme of screening by antenatal diagnosis for women at risk of having affected foetuses and use of therapeutic abortion in appropriate cases. The Indian Council of Medical Research has set up a Centre for the latter purpose at Bombay.

[*Translation*]

New Trains on Delhi-Shamli Saharanpur Line

*352. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering introducing some new express passenger trains on Delhi-Shamli-Saharanpur Railway Line on Northern Railway;

(b) if so, the time by which these trains are proposed to be introduced; and

(c) if not; the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Mainly due to shortage of coaches and terminal facilities in Delhi area.

[*English*]

Setting up National Water Grid

*353. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a suggestion has been made that Government should pursue expeditiously the policy of setting up national water grid as a long term solution to provide adequate water supply to various States; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Proposals for linking different river systems have been made from time to time and the broad techno-economic aspects of the proposals have been examined. Keeping in view the national perspective for water resources development outlined in 1980, studies and investigations with regard to inter-linking of peninsular rivers have been taken up.

Loss Incurred by D.T.C.

*354. SARI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANIY : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Transport Corporation has incurred a loss of more than 60 crores during the year 1984-85;

(b) the Seventh Plan Projection of the Delhi Transport Corporation; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Against an approved outlay of Rs. 100 crores during the VII Plan Period a sum of Rs. 70.90 crores pertain to acquisition of 2825 buses (1118 on replacement account and 1707 on additions account). The balance amount of Rs. 29.10 crores is planned to be spent on infrastructural facilities such as for construction of new Depots, new nodal Points/terminals, bus-que shelters and development of facilities in the existing workshops and other infrastructure.