

equipment. Indian Railways have also exported coaches and locomotives worth about Rs. 45 crores so far.

(c) and (d) The Railways are not importing railway engines, but to upgrade technology, orders have been recently placed for 18 proto-type high horse power electric locomotives. Some telecommunication equipment is also being imported from a few countries.

[English]

**Non-availability of vital medicines,
to common people**

*459. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are many villages and backward areas in the country where vital medicines are not available to the common people; and

(b) if so, whether any positive initiative is contemplated in the matter by the Union Government ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Medicines are available both in urban and rural areas through retail licensed dealers and Government health institutions.

(b) Primary Health Care infrastructure is steadily being expanded to meet the needs of the rural areas including backward areas.

**Rajdhani Express Between Delhi
and Guwahati**

*462. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce Rajdhani Express connecting Delhi with Guwahati;

(b) if so, when the proposal is likely to be implemented; 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) Introduction of a train like Rajdhani Express would require additional special type of high speed coaches which the Railways do not have at present. It will also require upgradation of the track to permit higher speed.

**Refusal of permission to air India
officials to visit Toronto Airport**

*463. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Canadian Government and Air Canada have refused permission to Air India officials to visit and inspect the Toronto Airport premises in connection with the Kanishka crash; and

(b) if so, whether the Canadian Government has given any reasons for refusing permission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) & (b) The Air India team accompanied by their lawyers was not permitted by Transport Canada to inspect the airport premises during their visit to Toronto on 5th November, 1985. The team was informed that the permission was being refused on legal advice. Subsequently, in the course of the hearing of the Court of Inquiry on 26th November, 1985 at Delhi, the Counsel for the Government of Canada extended an invitation to Air India and other parties to visit and inspect the premises at Toronto Airport. Its offer has been accepted by Air India.

**Direct railway service between
Mangalore and Bombay**

*464. SHRI I. RAMA RAI : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to provide a direct railway service