

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

between Mangalore and Bombay via Mangalore-Hassan-Miraj meter gauge line for the benefit of large number of passengers now patronising private tourist buses; and

(b) if so, the problems deterring its introduction ?

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

(b) Such a train is not likely to be popular as it will involve problems of transshipment and slower speed encountered on the ghat sections where night running is also not permitted.

[*Translation*]

“Deep screening” work in Railways

\*465. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that previously Railway itself used to do the work of “deep screening” in trains;

(b) whether it is also a fact that now the contract of this work has been given to private contractors and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the poor quality of screening work done by contractors has resulted in increase in the number of railway accidents;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to get this work done again by railways for the safety of railway passengers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir, Deep Screening of tracks used to be done by Departmental labour.

(b) Where the existing labour with the Railways is not able to cope with the work, it is being given on contract,

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The work is adequately supervised by Railway Staff to ensure safety as well as quality.

[*English*]

Plan allocation for irrigation for M.P. during Sixth Plan

\*466. SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the plan allocation for irrigation for Madhya Pradesh during the Sixth Plan and the actual expenditure;

(b) whether Government are considering any major irrigation scheme for Madhya Pradesh in the Seventh Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the World Bank loan assistance has been provided to the medium and major irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh during the Seventh Plan period and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : The approved outlay for irrigation sector for the Sixth Plan was Rs. 1047.75 crores while the expected expenditure is of the order of Rs. 945 crores.

(b) & (c) While 24 on-going major irrigation schemes are to continue in the Seventh Plan, new projects are to be considered by the State Government having regard to the approved State Plan outlay and the priorities envisaged in the Seventh Plan.

(d) Yes, Sir, about US \$ 265 million of World Bank assistance for major and medium irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh is available in the Seventh Plan under two credit agreements.

Sharing of Ganga water by India and Bangladesh

\*467. SHRI MANJIK REDDY : Will