

any redressal cells at Madras and Coimbatore stations for looking into the complaints of the passengers and the public. If so, what action has been taken.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, Madras does not come within the purview of this question, but I will certainly inform the hon. Member.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, I appreciate the Railway Department for having grievance cells in order to receive complaints in Bangalore and other places. At the same time I want to know from the Hon. Minister one thing. Even in respect of the Civil Aviation Department, we see suggestion boxes are put up inside the aircraft. But in the trains we do not see any suggestion box or a complaints box inside the bogie. The passengers rushing to the trains may be coming at the eleventh hour, they may not be able to find any time to make complaints to the Station Master or to the cell. If any complaint boxes are put up inside the bogie, that will be well and good for the passengers because they are travelling for hours together. Supposing there is a complaint, at best they can make it inside the bogie itself and they can put it inside the box. I would like to know whether an on-the-spot decision will be taken on a complaint, supposing it is put up in the complaint box inside the bogie.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, the Hon. Member's suggestion will be kept in mind. Nobody complains just like that. The cause of complaint arises after the journey is undertaken. So, the person rushing to the train is not rushing there with the complaint in hand, at that particular point of time.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : To provide facilities is of paramount importance.

Pregnancy deaths

*309. **SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of pregnancy deaths of women in India every year is higher

than in other countries; and

(b) if so, the facts in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b). According to WHO (1984-85) data, India has a Maternal Mortality Rate of 3-4 per 1000 live births. While these figures are higher than the corresponding figures in some other countries, they are lower than that in other countries.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister's reply is not clear. In her reply to my question regarding the number of pregnancy deaths of women in India, she has stated that the maternal mortality rate is 3 to 4 per 1000 live births, which does not seem to be correct. In the rural areas thousands of women are dying and in the city slums also many women die due to malnutrition. Has any survey been conducted in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : I would have certainly given all the details about other countries from the WHO publications but I thought this is not a proper thing to do on the floor of Parliament. I can assure the Hon. Members that I have the list with me. We are somewhere in the middle. There are countries where maternal mortality rate is much higher than ours and there are countries where it is much lower than ours. So, this is the information we have from the WHO.

So far as we can see, I can certainly list out what steps that are being taken in this respect. But if it is said, thousands are dying, Yes, thousands are dying. 3-4 per thousand would mean that thousands are dying. So, I don't think there is any difference of opinion between the Hon. Member and me, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH : I also want to know in which countries the rate of maternal mortality is lower and in which countries it is higher ?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : I will send it in writing, it is not proper to mention the names of those countries here. If the Hon. Speaker permits me, I can reveal the names here.

MR. SPEAKER : You may send it; it will add to her knowledge.

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, motherhood is the greatest boon of God, but, unfortunately, thousands of women in the rural areas die during pregnancy or at the time of child birth. I think that no record of it is available with the Department of Health. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether in order to maintain a record and to control maternal mortality, the State Governments will appoint Health Extension Officers on the line of Agricultural Extension Officers who are appointed for the development of the rural areas. Will the Centre give necessary instructions and assistance for this purpose so that proper records are kept and everyone is blessed with motherhood. What are the views of the Hon. Minister in this regard ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Yes, Sir, we are instructing the State Governments only in this regard but also in the case of other diseases about which the records are also not complete and it is essential to do so for which constant efforts are being made.

[English]

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM : Sir, let us leave the other countries. As far as India is concerned, what is the percentage of infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate ? Secondly, what is the main reason for it ? What are the steps that are being taken by the Government ? Fourthly, is it not the fact that due to negligence of the Medical Department, due to lack of medicines, the mortality rate is very high ?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, taking the last question first, my observation is—I cannot substantiate it by actual facts and perhaps the same is the observation of the Hon. Member also—that it is lack of facilities which is the main culprit. Where there is facility available, it is quite possible that at some places, the doctor or the nurse or A.N.M. etc., are not really attending to their job. That is something which we find in many other jobs, in respect of many persons doing many other jobs. But here, the main thing is that the facility itself is not available.

I have already given the figures—3-4 per one thousand population happens to be the rate in India. I don't think, there is anything more...

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM : What are the steps taken ?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : That would take a little time. I have a long list of steps that are being taken. If you wish, I can send a copy of steps to the Hon. Member.

Funds allowed for furnishing of residences of officers of Indian Airlines

*311. SHRI BANWARILAL BAIRWA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines provides a sum ranging between Rs. 70,000/- to Rs. 90,000/- for furnishing of residential houses of its officers ;

(b) if so, what are the rules in this regard; and

(c) whether this amount is recoverable from the officers concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Indian Airlines, like some other public sector undertakings, provides monetary assistance to its executives and senior officers for furnishing their