

[English]

Coach Building Units

*597. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up more coach building units in the Seventh Plan besides the recently commissioned Kapurthala Coach Factory to meet the shortage of coaches; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: I want to know the total demand for the coaches, and what percentage of it is being met at present. What will be the shortage by the end of the 7th Plan, and how is it going to be met?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The requirement for the five-year period is estimated to be about 14,304; and with the capacity at present installed, they would be able to produce 7,950. This has not taken into consideration Kapurthala. So, there is a shortage of about 6,300 odd coaches. I could not follow the second part of the question.

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: I want to know about the shortage by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. How is he going to meet that shortage? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We had discussed this question earlier also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: It is because of this that a decision was taken to set up another unit in the country. A decision was taken that Kapurthala will produce 1000 coaches; Kapurthala will start by producing in the year 1988-89 290 odd coaches and in 1989-90 about 500 coaches; and we are expecting to go in full production by 1991-92—about 1000 coaches. We will

not be able to meet this shortfall in this five year period, but we will be able to bridge the shortfall in the 8th Plan period. It is said sometimes that we are not able to condemn some of the old coaches. (Interruptions)

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Whether it is a fact that Kerala was considered for setting up a coach factory; if so, why was the proposal given up?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We had examined a number of locations and Kerala Government's suggestion to locate a coach factory at Palghat. All these sites were considered and finally it was decided to locate this factory at Kapurthala. No assurance was given.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: A general impression was created in Kerala that a coach factory would be set up at Palghat. Even the Kerala Government had given an assurance that the land and all other infrastructure would be given free of cost. We have no objection in setting up a factory at Kapurthala. But I want to know, in view of the high rate of unemployment in Kerala, and also in view of the fact that there is not a single railway undertaking in Kerala, except railway lines, would the Government consider—if they intend to set up another coach factory in India at all—setting up a coach factory in Kerala? Would the Minister give a categorical assurance?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: At present, there is no proposal to set up another railway coach factory. If and when such a decision is taken, at that time such an assurance can be given; it is too early to give this assurance.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Railway Department had taken a decision some time back to set up a railway coach factory either at Jodhpur or at Ajmer in Rajasthan but that decision has not been implemented so far. I want to know as to what action is the Railway Department taking in this regard?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: A railway coach factory is to be set up at Kapurthala. Besides this unit, the Govern-

ment has neither any proposal for the setting up of any additional coach factory nor has any decision been taken in this regard. When there is no need for such a factory, there can be no question of considering the demand of the hon. Member. There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whenever the question of railway coach factory comes up, our old wounds are revived. The hon. Minister has revived our old wound today. A decision was taken to set up a coach factory in Andhra Pradesh and recently survey was also completed. The hon. Speaker is also aware of it. Later, it was shifted to Punjab and an assurance was given that another coach factory would be set up in Andhra Pradesh. However, according to the reports which we are receiving at present, there is no proposal to set up any new coach factory in the Seventh Plan. The hon. Minister has dismissed the whole issue in a sentence and has stated that the Government has no such proposal under consideration. I want to know from the hon. Minister through you whether he will do something for Andhra Pradesh as per his assurance, because our sanctioned project at Kazipeth has been shifted elsewhere. In case he is going to give us anything in return, then please let us know about it. At least he should not reject it outright but should rather talk in terms of giving something,

MR. SPEAKER : Do not reject outright.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The new railway coach factory is going to be set up at Kapurthala.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Sir, my question has not been answered.

[English]

SHRI H.A. DORA : Is it an answer ?

MR. SPEAKER : Next question. Mr. Uttam Rathod. We have discussed it at length. There is nothing.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : At present there is no requirement for any

additional coach factory. Now, whether it be Andhra Pradesh, whether it be Rajasthan, whether it be Kerala, it will be applicable to all.

(Interruptions)

International Women's Day

***599. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether International Women's Day was observed in India on March 8, 1987;

(b) if so, whether any special programmes meant for the welfare of women in India, especially women belonging to the weaker sections of the society were launched on that day; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : The Human Resource Ministry is over-represented by women. May I know, with Kumari Saroj Khaparde to his left, Shrimati Krishna Sahi and Shrimati Alva on the right and Mrs. Bhandari in front of him, how could the Minister afford to forget the weaker sections, especially the women ? *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : The question is directly pointed to my boss. I do not think I can answer it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : In dowry cases, when they are reported, they say that woman is the greatest enemy of woman. Are we to tell him that where women need help and how can he neglect the weaker sections, especially the women ? Put them in any front, I will say this. *(Interruptions)*