

(a) whether tubewells and handpumps are being installed in Andhra Pradesh with the financial assistance provided by the World Bank to fight against the drought conditions and scanty rains in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the tubewells and handpumps installed during the last six months;

(c) details of tubewells and handpumps to be installed during the next six months;

(d) location of installation of these tubewells and handpumps; and

(e) the drought affected areas in the State that have not been covered under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Setting up of National Transportation Safety Board

*369. SHRI K.V. SHANKARA GOWDA.
SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Transportation Safety Board is being set up to coordinate the safety of surface, rail and air transport;

(b) if so, the main functions and powers of the Board;

(c) whether the Board will coordinate the working of all the three transport systems; and

(d) if so, by what time the Board is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main functions and powers of

the Board shall be as follows:—

- (i) To oversee the functioning of the Sectoral Safety Organisations.
- (ii) To coordinate the formulation and implementation of safety related measures involving more than one sector of transport.
- (iii) To coordinate research and development of common interest to several modes of transport.
- (iv) To act as a clearing house for dissemination of information of safety related measures of interest to more than one transport sector.
- (v) To act as an umbrella organisation for involvement of agencies outside the transport sector for relief measures

The role of the proposed Board shall be recommendatory and not mandatory.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This is being actively pursued.

Contract for rail India technical and economic services limited

*370 SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH:
DR. D.N. REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited has been awarded a contract for the maintenance of the high speed railway line in Iraq; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES) has been awarded a contract for operation and maintenance of the newly constructed Baghdad-AI-Qaim-Akashat