

Electric Driven Trains

*549. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether Government have planned to run more trains by electric engines;

(b) if so, the mileage of such electrification by the end of 1980-81;

(c) the mileage to be covered by electrification by the end of Sixth Plan period;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Kharagpur-Puri Railway line in S. E. Railway is not electrified yet; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof and the year by which the electrification work will be started on this line and the year of completion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approximately 5350 Route Kms.

(c) Approximately 2350 Route Kms. are proposed to be electrified during the remaining period of the VI Plan (1981-85) totalling 7700 Route Kms. electrified by the end of VI Plan.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Kharagpur Khurda Road section is included in the 10 years programme of railway electrification between 1980-81 and 1989-90. Since the traffic density on this section is comparatively low, it may be taken up for electrification sometime in the 7th Plan. At present there is no proposal to take up Khurda Road-Puri section for electrification as the traffic density on this section is low.

Rural Health Scheme received from Orissa

*550. SHRI RASA BEHARI BEHERA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Rural Health Scheme has been received from the Government of Orissa for implementation in the State;

(b) whether the same has been approved by Central Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the estimated cost of the scheme; and

(e) how much of it will be financed by Government of India ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). The question does not arise.

Abolition of Steam Locomotive

*551. SHRI A. K. ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to abolish steam locomotive sheds in Eastern Railway, South Eastern Railway and other Railways by introducing the diesel engines;

(b) the reasons and basis for introducing dieselisation in face of high prices of diesel and easy availability of coal in Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway on less expenses; and

(c) the plans and programmes of Government to provide jobs to the surplus locomen as a result of electrification and dieselisation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Indian Railways have plans to progressively rationalise the modes of traction and gradually replace steam operation which is comparatively uneconomic, by diesel/electric traction. In this process, wherever all the services including the slow-moving trains and shunting services are switched over to diesel/electric traction, the steam loco shed will have to be closed down.

(b) Dieselisation on Indian Railways including Eastern and South-Eastern Railways is carried out as and when it is found more efficient and economical compared with the steam traction.

(c) Staff rendered surplus due to electrification and dieselisation would be deployed to meet the requirements in diesel and electric tractions, carriage and wagon maintenance workshops etc., according to their suitability and skills.

Opening of a Regional Office at Madras Port for Seamen

***552. SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for opening of Regional Office at Madras for the seamen of Southern States as they are experiencing inconvenience and hardship in going either to Bombay or Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the action taken there on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for opening a Seamen's Employment office at Madras is under consideration.

Qualified Doctors to cure Leprosy

***553. SHRI HARINATH MISRA:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the entire M.B.B.S. course, the curriculum with respect of the diagnosis, prevention and cure of leprosy cases consists of six lectures on skin diseases;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) if not, what is the actual position; and

(d) what arrangements exist in the country for the training of doctors who would be adequately qualified for the diagnosis control and cure of leprosy cases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the recommendations of the Medical Council of India on Undergraduate Medical Education, the period of posting in the Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy is one month. Leprosy is also being taught in the Department of Medicine and Community Medicine also. The training in Community Medicine starts from the very beginning of the MBBS course and is imparted right upto the internship training. During this training every effort is made to expose the students to diagnosis, prevention and cure of leprosy cases also.

(d) Arrangements for training of doctors through six weeks intensive course in leprosy in prevention, diagnosis, treatment pathology, surgery, etc. are available at six Leprosy Centres in the country. In addition, practical training facilities in special