

the gradients—Parvathipuram-Koraput has 180 gradients. It is too steep. There are long tunnels. We have to dig it and 'Y' cuts and other factors are there. Even though 45 kilometres more construction is there, operationally, financially, technically, the Koraput-Rayagada alignment is viable. Therefore, it has been accepted. As the hon. Member is aware, an aluminium project is coming up there at Damanjodi. People have agreed to construct an aluminium complex. On 12th November 23 kilometres work has been started i.e. Koraput and Metalaput.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Damanjodi which the hon. Minister has mentioned is on the border of Andhra Pradesh. I do not know whether he has visited this area. I have gone myself. He has talked about gradients which I cannot answer but there will be two ghat sections on the direct route from Rayagada to Koraput. 45 kilometre more is not a small thing. Each kilometre may cost Rs. 1 crore or more. There will be one ghat section in the Koraput Parvatipuram Route. This is plain area. But what about ghats when we move up the hills. I personally feel that it has been done on political grounds with some influence of your Orissa Chief Minister, etc. If the only thing which is going to be done, I do not know what will happen. Mr. Speaker Sir, if they save money by having a short route, with that money you can have Sambalpur-Talcher route which the Orissa people want. Can he give me facts and figures?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Whatever the facts and figures which the hon. Member wants, I can give. So far as the point of political pressure by the Orissa Chief Minister is concerned, there is no pressure and the Government is not going to yield to the pressure of anybody—either from the Opposition or others. We go technically.

Increase in cases of T. B. and Chest disease

*173. **SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD:**

**SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:**

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether failure to control T.B. and chest diseases is due to planners' apathy and reluctance on the part of State Governments to take action on the recommendation of an "Expert Committee" which reviewed the programme in 1975; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to reduce the T.B. incidence and control the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Expert Committee which reviewed the National T.B. Programme in 1975 have been implemented namely, (a) BCG Vaccination facilities have been integrated with general health services (b) health workers at PHC and sub-centre level have been actively involved in T.B. case finding and treatment, and (c) the establishment of District T.B. Centres has been accelerated.

SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Sir, the answer which the hon. Minister has given, I feel, is not very precise specially when the matter concerns the health of this country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what further steps are going to be taken to see that people are treated for this disease and it is totally eradicated?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: We have answered several times about this particular question. Again, I can reiterate the same thing. To tackle the problem of Tuberculosis in the country under the National T. B. Programme, fully equipped and trained staff in the District T.B. Centres to undertake T.B. Cases and training activities are also established in the States and Union Territories. Out of these centres, most

of the district centres have been equipped with all these things in our country. So far, a total number of 353 such district TB Sub-centres have been established throughout the country. In addition, there are about 300 other TB Clinics which are undertaking TB cases and treatment activities. For the infectious and seriously sick TB patients, nearly 44,000 TB beds have been established. More over, B.C.G. programme has also been taken into immunisation programme. These are some of the steps which we are trying to take to Control tuber-Culosis.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Health for all by 2,000 A.D. cannot be achieved unless active steps are taken on war-footing within a decade. It has been stated that there is scarcity of medicines, and supply, of medicines also is not streamlined. Not only that, much emphasis is not laid on eradication of Tuberculosis in the Sixth Plan. The State Governments are demanding 100 per cent subsidy. What is the reaction from the Central Government so far as this demand is concerned?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: So far as this demand is concerned, it is 50-50 basis. We are giving 50 per cent subsidy under the Centrally sponsored scheme. No doubt, TB is really major public health problem and about 10 million people are suffering from it. We have certain problems. Definitely, we are suffering from lack of funds. Because of this, we are not able to ackle it effectively. But we are trying our best to do whatever is possible.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

राजधानी एक्सप्रेस का सूरत में स्टापेज

*165. श्री छीतू भाई गामित : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गुजरात में सूरत के लोगों ने मांग की है कि राजधानी एक्सप्रेस के लिए सूरत में स्टापेज बनाया जाये ;

(ख) क्या उक्त मांग स्वीकार कर ली जायेगी, और यदि हाँ, तो संभवतः कब तक ; और

(ग) इस सम्बन्ध में रेल विभाग द्वारा की जा रही कार्यवाही का ब्योरा क्या है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री केदार पाण्डेय) :

(क) जी हाँ।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Private catering contracts in Superfast trains

*166. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER:

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Superfast trains in which the catering contracts have been awarded to private contractors;

(b) the particulars of those contractors and the criteria followed in awarding contracts to them; and

(c) whether the Railway catering service could not manage catering service themselves in these Superfast trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) to (c): The mobile catering services on the following Superfast trains are being managed by contractors whose names are indicated against each:—

1. 1Up/2 Dn. Mail (Howrah-Kalka M/s, J. R. Dara and Co.)

2. 155 Up/156 Dn. (Tinsukia Mail: M/s. P. R. Catering Co. New Delhi New Bongaigaon):

3. 153 Up/154 Dn. (Jayanti Janata Shri Sachidanand Singh Express, Muzaffarpur-Delhi).

The contracts for running mobile catering units are allotted only to such