

provided in some cases on 'Out of Turn Basis' strictly against sponsored programme of the State Government/Sponsoring Authority, where industry/consumers represented distress.

No allotment to private contractors has been made directly.

(c) Number of wagons for coal loading so allotted on the different railways during the months 'April—July' has been about 7,000 wagons.

#### Supply of Controlled paper to Delhi and Gujarat

\*486. SHRI UTTAMBHAJ H. PATEL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) what was the total requirement of and actual supply of controlled paper to the Union Territory of Delhi and the State of Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) Whether they were supplied such paper less than their requirements and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to meet their full requirements; and

(d) how much requirement and supply is expected during 1981 and 1982?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b). The total requirement of controlled paper as notified by Delhi and Gujarat and the allotment made during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Delhi (in tonnes)		Gujarat (in tonnes)	
	Requirement	Allotment	Requirement	Allotment
1978-79	12658	8243	16058	11470
1979-80	10029	6232	17610	10587
1980-81	8682	5011	15120	8570

(c) It has not been possible to meet the full requirement of paper of any

State or Union Territory due to the very limited availability of concessional paper. As and when the availability improves, efforts are made to meet the requirement of States and Union Territories in full.

(d) It is not possible to assess the requirement and supply before hand as these are based on various related factors.

#### Unemployment Allowance to Handicapped and Blinds

\*487. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to introduce unemployment allowance for the physically handicapped and blind persons;

(b) whether Government have collected informations regarding children below 14 years in age who are covered in this category;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give some scholarships or extend some other facilities by giving them some maintenance to improve their future prospects; and

(d) whether Central Government have issued some instructions to the States in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) The proposal of giving an employment allowance to the physically handicapped persons, including blinds, has been referred to a working group set up by the Government to consider the question of legislation in this field. The report of the Working Group is awaited. The proposal has also been referred to the State Governments for consideration.

(b) to (d). There has been no comprehensive survey to determine the number of handicapped children be-

low 14 years in age and therefore, this information is not available. Scholarships are provided to the handicapped students under the scheme of Scholarship to the Blind, The Deaf, and the Orthopaedically Handicapped for pursuing academic studies from class IX onwards and for vocational and technical training. For the 1981-82 a budget provision of Rupees 69 lakhs has been made for this scheme. During the year 1980-81 an amount of Rupees 61.08 lakhs was sanctioned to the States for giving scholarships/stipends to about 10,000 students/trainees. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Karnatak, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim; Andaman and Nicobar islands, Delhi, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Goa Daman and Diu and Pondicherry have their own schemes of giving scholarships to handicapped students for studying upto Class VIII. The Central Government has requested all the other State Governments to formulate schemes of scholarships for the handicapped students for pursuing studies upto Class VIII.

#### **Economy in Expenditure by Indian Embassies**

\*488. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual expenditure incurred by the Indian Embassies in the foreign countries; and

(b) the steps taken to reduce such expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The total expenditure incurred by the Indian Embassies abroad in the financial year 1980-81 was Rs. 36.65 crores.

(b) Steps taken to reduce expenditure abroad fall broadly into four categories:

(i) continuous review and re-formulation of rules and regulations, financial and administrative, relating to per-

sonnel as well as their service conditions, with the objective of eliminating or at least reducing routine work abroad which can be done equally well at Hqrs;

(ii) Staff thus released from the larger missions to be re-deployed in hard-pressed mission in other regions such as the Gulf area and North Africa, thereby saving the expense of providing personnel from Headquarters for these Missions;

(iii) wherever possible, we are purchasing or constructing office as well as residential property abroad, so as to effect substantial reduction in rental bills. Long-term effects of this policy would be full return of cost of property in addition to acquisition of valuable permanent assets by the Government of India;

(iv) prescription of regulated administrative norms, relating to expenditure on hotel bills, ceiling on number of permitted telephone calls from residential telephones of officers, including head of missions, curtailing expenditure on telegrams, transportation and stationery. One important measure is the prescription of a minimum period of stay in Delhi between postings which would yield considerable savings in terms of travelling allowance and foreign allowance payable to personnel posted abroad.

#### **Extra Loading in Jumbo Freight Trains**

\*489. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that each wagon of the jumbo freight train is loading five extra tonnes of load and that the diesel and electric locos haul trailing loads beyond the technically permissible level;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of loco failures on the various zonal railways as a result thereof during the last one year; and