

(d) Yes Sir, Chief Minister of Maharashtra has asked the Railway for installation of a 210 MW Unit and has suggested that excess units, if any, will be purchased by the Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

[*Translation*]

Railway Bridge on Saryu in  
Ayodhya

4766. SHRI R.P. SUMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum regarding construction of a railway bridge over the Saryu river in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) whether Government propose to accord approval to the construction of this bridge keeping in view the historical importance of Ayodhya and if so, by what time and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Demands have been received from time to time for construction of a rail bridge across river Saryu, in Ayodhya. Due to constraint of resources, there is no proposal for a new Railway line requiring construction of a bridge across the river near Ayodhya.

[*English*]

National Vis-a-Vis Metropolitan  
Expenditure on Education

4767. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the metropolitan and national per lakh education expenditure separately ; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to bring about parity between the two ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) The expenditure per lakh population on education in the metropolitan cities of India is being collected from the concerned State Governments and would be placed on the Table of the Sabha. Expenditure per lakh at the national level for the year 1983-84, for which information is available, is Rs. 77.2 lakhs.

(b) The National Policy on Education will lay special emphasis on the removal of disparities and to equalisation of educational opportunity by attending to the specific needs of those who have been denied equality so far.

Linking Minicoy with Maldives by  
Air

4768. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is close geographic, ethnic and linguistic affinity between the Lakshadweep Islands, particularly Minicoy and the Maldives Republic ;

(b) if so, whether a survey has been conducted to connect the two by air ; and

(c) whether the Vayudoot flights to Agatti in 1987 will be extended to the Maldives at a later date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

Goods Lost, Damaged or Pilfered  
during Transit in Railways

4769. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :  
SHRI YASHWANTRAO GAD-  
KH PATIL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :