

comes available. There is no shortage of medicines in the dispensary ; but if some medicine is not available at a particular point of time, then the same can be prescribed by the Specialist for direct purchase from the Super Bazar.

Development of Buckingham Canal

2734. SHRI BEZHAWADA PAPI REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is heavy growth of traffic on National Highway No. 5 particularly in the Vijayawada-Madras Sector ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the 250 miles long Buckingham Canal, built in the 19th Century and which has now silted up needs marginal widening so that it can easily be utilised for introduction of fast moving hydrofoil boats for taking freight and passengers in this sector, at very low and economic prices ; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) Yes. There has been substantial growth of traffic in the Madras-Vijayawada section of National Highway No. 5.

(b) and (c). This Canal, even after marginal widening, may not be suitable for fast moving hydrofoil boats for taking freight and passengers, as the water depth in the canal will not be sufficient for operating such boats. The economics of operation of hydrofoil boats are yet to be established in India.

However, scheme for development of Buckingham Canal from Ennore to Beddaganjam Lock for operation of mechanised vessels, has been proposed for inclusion in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The Seventh Five-Year Plan is, however, yet to be finalised.

Construction of Over-Bridge at Kavadi (Nellore District)

2735. SHRI BEZHAWADA PAPI REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a persistent demand for years for construction of an over bridge at Kavadi (Nellore District) in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) if so, reasons for delay and proposal for meeting this long pending genuine need ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Kavadi Municipality have also offered to bear its portion of the cost ; and

(d) whether Government have plans to take up the project to help development of the area and its socio-economic needs and if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) to (d). As per extant rules, the work of road over bridges in replacement of busy level crossings are sanctioned jointly by railway and the State Government on cost sharing basis. The proposal for road over bridge at Kavadi is under the consideration of Railways and State Government who are willing to bear their share of cost. Due to constraint of resources and a number of works of road over/under bridges already in progress in Andhra Pradesh State, it has not been possible to include this work in Railways Works Programme so far. This proposal will be considered for inclusion in Railways future Works Programme alongwith other such works, subject to availability of funds.

Withdrawal of wagon allotment facility at Repelle Station

2736. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Central Railway Authorities had withdrawn the wagon allotment facility at Repelle Railway Station in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh hitherto catering to the export needs of fishermen of Nizampatnam and adjoining coastal area ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to re-start the wagon facility at Repelle Railway Station immediately ?