

procure their own wagons, the Railways could consider a scheme of giving a suitable rebate in freight charges to them for movement in such wagons. The scheme is still in the formative stage and response of Public Sector Undertakings will be known after the details are finalised.

Production of Rakes and Power to Introduce New Trains

565. SHRI MANIK SANYAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether introduction of new trains for want of additional rakes and power have been shelved disregarding passengers needs and urgency of cargo movement;

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving priority to boost production of rakes and power generation so that new trains can be introduced;

(c) whether there is any plan in this regard and the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Railways have decided to go slow in the introduction of new trains on account of shortage of coaches and locomotives as also other constraints.

(b) to (d) Extreme shortage of resources have compelled the railways to severely restrict their programme for production of locomotives and coaches for the present.

World Bank Loan for Transport Sector

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has given our country a loan of dollar 200 million for transport sector for massive repairs and rehabilitation work;

(b) if so, the works which are being considered in respect of Rajasthan State under this Project;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) the States in respect of which works are being considered under this project; and

(e) whether these States are equally developed or backward as Rajasthan is in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) to (e) The development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and improvement works are sanctioned keeping in view the existing condition of the National Highway, traffic intensity, availability of resources and inter-se priority on an all-India basis. The World Bank has agreed to provide a loan of US \$ 200 million for development of six National Highway projects in the States of Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. These projects have been selected keeping in view the traffic requirement, priority on an all-India basis and economic justification and not on consideration of economic backwardness of a region. No projects on a National Highway in Rajasthan has been covered under this loan.

New Curriculum for Medicine Education

567. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Indian Medicine Council has proposed new curriculum for medicine education in the country so as to curtail the period of education which is unduly long and involves nine to ten years to achieve Post Graduation, whereas the period involved in technical education at the same level is much less ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : The total duration of professional courses in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha systems after 12th pass is 8½ years including three years Post-Graduation. The question of fixing minimum entry qualifications in the light of the recommendations of the Central Council of Indian Medicine for the professional degree courses in Ayurveda, Unani