

Besides, the Ministry of Works & Housing has rendered assistance during the last five years to the extent of Rs. 618 lakhs for the development of 5 ring towns under the National Capital Region Plan Viz, Meerut, Gurgaon, Alwar Panipat and Hapur to reduce the pressure on Delhi's population. During the current year a sum of Rs. 75 lakhs has been provided for giving assistance to these ring towns. These ring towns are intended to serve as counter magnets in order to divert away immigrant population from Delhi.

Reservation in Trains

1259 SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the travelling public are finding it difficult to get reservation in trains for long journey travel particularly from Bangalore to Bombay or Delhi etc. and so also, the return journey; and

(b) if so, the steps which Government propose to take to see that accommodation is made available for long journey travel?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). some difficulties are experienced by passengers during summer rush period. Additional coaches are provided on trains to clear wait-listed passengers. Reservation quotas are allotted in the summer specials for passengers originating from Bangalore area.

It has since been decided to double head 125|126 Bangalore-Trivandrum-New Delhi K. K. Express and also augment the load of 303|304 Mahalaxmi Express to provide more accommodation for passengers. The position will ease as soon as these are given effect to.

618 LS—3

Need of Wagons for Transportation of Coal from BCCL

1260 SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wagons needed daily for transporting coal from Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and Bharat Coking Coal Limited to meet the requirements of Industrial units and power houses;

(b) whether there is any gap between the requirement and supply of wagons for coal loading; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to remove the gap?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Under ideal conditions ECL and BCCL should require a total of 3600 wagons per day for industries, power houses, steel plants, Railways and others.

(b) Yes.

(c) Power supply interruptions are presently affecting production of coal, as well as its movement by rail. As soon as power supply position improves, the rate of loading is also expected to improve.

Conversion of M.C. Road as National Highway

1261. SHRI V. S. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the centre to convert the Main Central Road as National Highway;

(b) whether the centre has rejected the proposal;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would reconsider the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d). The Kerala Government had sent a proposal which amounted to the declaration of Main Central Road from Angamally to Trivandrum via Muvattupuzha, Kottayama and Kottarkara as a National Highway. Due to financial constraints and other priority considerations, Government are unable to take over any new road as a National Highway at present. This also applies to the road in question.

New Railway Lines in Western Zone

1262. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new railway lines have been taken in hand for construction during the last three years in Western Zone of the country;

(b) if so, the progress made so far; and

(c) the time by which these will open for traffic?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). The conversion of the narrow gauge line from Nadiad to Kapadvanj into Broad Gauge extension of the same upto Modasa was taken up in 1978-79. 7 per cent progress has been made on this work and no target date has yet been fixed.

The construction of a new B. G. line from Kota to Chittorgarh and extension with a parallel B. G. line up to Neemuch has been approved in 1980-81 and the final location survey is in progress.

Inter-State Migrant Labour

1263. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the steps so far taken to provide basic amenities like legal protection shelter etc. to the inter-state migrant labour; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b). To provide basic amenities including legal protection, shelter, medical facilities, clothing, allowances regular payment of wages and other suitable working conditions for inter-State migrant workmen, Parliament has enacted the "Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979."

Setting up of anti-dacoity unit to check dacoity and robbery

1264. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to establish an anti-dacoity unit to check incidents of dacoity and robbery on trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) A post of Joint Director in Security Directorate of the Railway Board at Delhi is being upgraded as CSO/DIG (anti-dacoity) to strengthen measures from the Railway side to deal with the problem i.e. by way of rendering assistance to the State Police.