

make the Andhra Pradesh Express double headed; and

(b) if not, what is the thinking of Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) The justification and feasibility of double heading of 123/124 Andhra Express is under examination and action as found feasible will be taken keeping in view availability of resources.

**Setting up of Second All India Institute of Medical Sciences in North Eastern Region**

4209. SHRI CHINGWANG KONYAK:

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN:  
DEV:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up second All India Institute of Medical Sciences in North Eastern Region during the Sixth Plan period;

(b) if so, when the work will be taken up; and

(c) where it will be located?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (c). In principle it has been agreed to set up an Institute of Medical Sciences in the North Eastern Region.

**Indian Held by Kurdish Rebels**

4210. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:  
SHRI R. N. RAKESH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the 'Hindu-

stan Times' dated the 20th February, 1981 that nine persons including four Indians have been held in Iraq since last month by Kurdish rebels, demanding in exchange for prisoners held by the Iraqi Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government is aware of the detention of 9 persons including four Indians by Kurdish rebels belonging to the Kurdish United Party in Iraq since January 31, 1981.

(b) On January 31, 1981, 9 persons (1 British, 1 Egyptian, 3 Lebanese and 4 Indians) were kidnapped by the Kurdish rebels belonging to the Kurdish United Party in Iraq. The four Indians are: (1) Shamsuddin Faizuddin Qureshi (2) Noel Harry Joplin (3) Aikkarapurath Krishna Narayan and (4) Ramnaresh Jagdeo Sharma. They were employed by a Lebanese Company called M/s. F. A. Kettaneh at their Sulaimaniya Water Supply Project in Dokan (Iraq).

The last mentioned Indian namely Ramnaresh Jagdeo Sharma was released by the rebels on February 1, 1981. He brought letters addressed to our Ambassador in Bagdad which were written by the other three Indians seeking assistance for securing their release. It is reported that the Kurdish rebels indicated that they would set free the kidnapped foreigners only after the families of some rebels under Iraqi detention had been released.

On receiving the above information our Embassy in Bagdad took up the matter appropriately with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Iraq. Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi have also taken necessary measures for seeking the release of the Indian nationals.