

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) to (c). Widening of National Highways from two-lane to four-lane standards is governed by the traffic requirements of a particular highway. Such sections of National Highway which cross the limit of 10,000 Passenger Car Units per day normally qualify for widening to four-lane standards. Taking into consideration this criteria and availability of resources, the Government of India have already sanctioned works on some portions of National Highway No. 1 (between Amritsar and New Delhi) for widening from two-lane to four-lane standards, namely portion falling within the Union Territory of Delhi costing Rs. 504.95 lakhs. in Haryana from Delhi-Haryana border to Murthal costing Rs. 327.00 lakhs and that in Punjab from Ludhiana to Goraya costing Rs. 439.00 lakhs. The work on these portions is at various stages of progress and every effort is being made to complete the work as early as possible. Some other sections will be considered for improvement depending upon the availability of resources in a phased manner.

Uncleaned compartments and inadequate water supply in Neelachal Express

1403. SHRI MANMOHAN TUDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry are aware about the sheer negligence of the concern railway staff in cleaning the bathrooms and compartments of the Neelachal Express;

(b) whether it is a fact that water supply to this train is not being given regularly; and

(c) what positive steps Government proposed to take for the cleanliness of the compartments and regular water supply?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) No,

(c) Neelachal Express rake is thoroughly washed and cleaned at the originating stations and two Safaiwalas accompany the train between Puri and Tata both in UP and Down directions for cleaning the bathrooms and compartments. In addition, Safaiwalas are also posted at all important and Junction Stations for cleaning the bathrooms & compartments during the scheduled halt. The coaches of Neelachal Express are also regularly replenished with water at the originating stations and at nominated stations enroute both in the Up and Down directions.

Whenever a specific complaint is received about cleanliness or watering in any coach the matter is investigated and action is taken against the delinquent staff.

Opening Consular Division of Indian Embassy at Salalah

1404. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the large number of Indian number of Indian nationals staying at Salalah (Sultanate of Oman), the Government would consider establishing a Consular Division of Indian Embassy at Salalah;

(b) whether any representation to the above effect has been received by or through our Embassy; and

(c) if so, Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c). The Government of India is aware that a large number of Indian nationals staying at Salalah