

enrichment plant to Pakistan without the approval of the Ministry concerned of West Germany;

(b) whether this report is correct;

(c) if so, whether the issue has been taken up with the West German Government; and

(d) if so, reply received from that Government and the steps taken to meet the threat?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the appearance on 3 July 1981 of an article on this subject in the German magazine "STERN".

(b) to (d). There was a subsequent report in the German press that on 15th July the Federal Government informed the BUNDESTAG, in reply to a parliamentary question, that the German firm had in fact violated the foreign trade law of the country by exporting to Pakistan without an export permit a fluorine plant suitable for manufacture of uranium hexafluoride which is the original material for the enrichment of uranium.

Action against the offending firm should in the normal course be taken by the FRG Government under its laws for violation of its export regulations.

Periodic Scrutiny of Free Passes Issued

1789. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD.

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR
SINGH:

SHRI R. R. BHOLE:

SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of all-round criticism and loss of revenue his Ministry continues to grant free complimentary passes liberally;

(b) if so, the number of free rail passes issued for first class, second

class, air-conditioned class and other categories;

(c) whether any norms have been determined for issue of free rail passes, the amount of money these free passes cost to the railways at whose discretion these passes are issued and whether there is a provision for periodic scrutiny of the passes; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). The Government have cancelled all complimentary card passes issued to individuals/organisations with effect from 13-8-81 except those issued to the Members of following Committees associated with the Railways:—

1. Railway Hindi Salahakar Samiti.
2. Hindi Shabdawali Samiti.
3. Standing Voluntary help Committee.
4. National Railway Catering Consultative Council.
5. Programme Implementation Committee.
6. Passenger Amenities Committee.

(c) and (d). Complimentary passes were being issued with the personal approval of Minister of Railways keeping in view the following broad guidelines:

(1) Institutions and Organisations devoted to social, cultural, scientific, literary, sports and educational activities and whose work is of all India character.

(2) Organisations devoted to the welfare of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward and neglected sections, women, blind and handicapped persons etc.

(3) Eminent persons engaged in work of national importance for which they are required to undertake frequent journeys.

Scrutiny is made while the renewal of such passes is considered and if circumstances so warrant even before. Figures of expenditure in regard to the journeys performed on the basis of complimentary card passes are not maintained.

Declaration of Allahabad Haldia reach as National Waterway

1790. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have by now taken a decision to declare the Allahabad-Haldia reach of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system as national waterway,

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof,

(c) what steps are being taken to open the stretch between Haldia and Farakka for inland navigation and what are the points fixed on this waterway, and

(d) what steps have been taken to build the necessary infrastructural facilities at these points?

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

(a) and (b). The Government of India has decided in Principle to declare the stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system between Haldia and Allahabad as a National Waterway. Draft legislation for the purpose will be brought before Parliament.

(c) and (d). With the completion of Farakka Barrage and the Feeder Canal inland navigation in the Haldia-Farakka stretch has become feasible. Based on a detailed feasibility report, a scheme for provision of infrastructural facilities in this stretch of the waterway has been prepared and is being processed. In the scheme, the following 9 potential I WT terminals in this reach have been identified for development in stages:—

Haldia, Calcutta, Tribeni, Nabadwip, Katwa, Plassey, Berhampur, Pakur & Farakka.

Number of Primary Health Centres and sub Centres

1791. SHRI JAGPAL SINGH:

SHRI TRILOK CHAND:

SHRI CHANDER DEO PRASAD VERMA:

SHRI CHHOTAY SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) the number of primary health centres and sub-centres in various parts of the country as on 31st December, 1980;

(b) the number of such centres which were ill equipped and functioning with only one physician and the number of those centres which had no physician at all;

(c) the number of vacancies existing on 31st December, 1980 stating the reasons for these vacancies remaining unfilled; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies of physicians at the earliest for the proper functioning of the health centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) According to the information available as on 1st April, 1981 there are 5532 Primary Health Centres and 51184 Sub-centres in the country.

(b) and (c). As on 1st April, 1981 there were 4907 Primary Health Centres which were reported to be functioning with two or more doctors; 538 with one doctor and 36 with no doctor. One of the major reasons for the vacancies in the Primary Health Centres is reported to be due to the transfer/retirements of Medical Officers and the usual time involved in posting/recruiting their substitutes.