

(a) whether suggestions have been put forward by diarrhoea experts that Government should try to provide every village in the country with 100 oral rehydration salt packets annually by the end of the 7th Plan in 1990 ;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that diarrhoea toll is higher in tribal areas ;

(c) whether the details of this programme of Rehydration packs for villages have been worked out and if so, details thereof ; and

(d) whether a beginning will be made in the tribal areas to start with if so, when programme is likely to be launched upon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) to (d). Yes. It is proposed to supply 100 Oral Rehydration Salt packets to each of the health guides per year against 60 Oral Rehydration Salt packets at present. Training in Oral rehydration has also been arranged for mothers, community, medical officers of the Primary Health Centres and para medical workers in the prevention and control of diarrhoeal disease. The Programme will cover all areas including tribal areas during the Seventh Plan.

Decline in Railway Freight Traffic

1700. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railway freight traffic is continuing downtrend and has declined by 4.53 million tonnes.

(b) if so, what are the factors responsible for this decline and whether traffic would further fall during the monsoons ; and

(c) its impact on the Railways' earnings and how it is proposed to generate more freight traffic and check the continued revenue loss which may seriously affect the overall Railway finances ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY) : (a) The freight traffic loaded by the Rail-

ways upto the end of June in 1984-85 as per provisional figures is more by 0.37 million tonnes as compared to the corresponding period last year. However, as compared to the target it is less by 3.45 million tonnes.

(b) The main factors responsible for less loadings are less offer of traffic by the core sector like coal, finished products from steel plants and Iron ore for export. Also the Ports strike, law and order conditions in Bombay and Punjab areas, and dislocation caused by floods affected loading. All these factors, besides the monsoon have contributed to the less loading.

(c) As against the Budget proportion for freight revenue the shortfall upto the end of June, 84 is approximately 3.10 crores. As far as the proposals for generation of more traffic are concerned, Railways are coordinating with the core sectors and also keeping a watch on selected high revenue yielding commodities.

दानापुर और हावड़ा के बीच 'पवन एक्सप्रेस' चलाना

1701. श्री विजय कुमार यादव : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने पूर्वी रेलवे में दानापुर और हावड़ा के बीच "पवन एक्सप्रेस" चलाने का फैसला किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस रेलगाड़ी को कब से चलाये जाने की सम्भावना है और तत्सम्बन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री ए०बी०ए०गनी खां चौधरी) : (क) और (ख) सप्ताह में तीन दिन चलने वाली एक एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी अर्थात् 31/32 दानापुर-हावड़ा एक्सप्रेस 1-4-1984 से चला दी गई है।

फुतुहा-इस्लामपुर लाइट रेलवे को अनुदान

1702. श्री विजय कुमार यादव : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :