

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Ozonised drinking water 250 ml. satchets is supplied with Casserole meals in the pantry cars of Kerala Express from Trivandrum to New Delhi and back w e f. 25.9.1989.

(b) and (c). Casserole meals are served in this trains. These meals are picke up from base kitchens/Refreshment Rooms enroute. It is not proposed to prepare casserole meals on these trains as base kitchens/Refreshment rooms are more suitable from the point of view of proper preparation packing and hygiene

[Translation]

Ventilation System in Collieries of B.C.C.L.

8637. **SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV.** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether the ventilation system in the collieries under BCCL, Dhanbad (Bihar) is inadequate and thousands of workers have become ill as a result thereof.

(b) whether the British Mining Council had visited the said collieries and given some suggestions regarding ventilation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve the ventilation system on the suggestions of the British Mining Council; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The ventilation system in the collieries under BCCL, Dhanbad is in conformity with the provisions of the

Coal Mines Regulations 1957. However, there is room for bringing about improvements. It is not a fact that because of inadequate ventilation, thousands of workers have become ill.

(b) to (e). The British Mining Consultants have visited Moonidih mine of BCCL and given the following short-term and long-term suggestions for further improving the ventilation:

Short-term suggestions:

- i) Improving performance of existing fan by putting deflectors in fan drift;
- ii) Reducing leakage through air lock;
- iii) Widening of return airway for reducing resistance;
- iv) Installation of booster fan in high resistance district; and
- v) Bye-pass drivage for chocked return due to fall.

Long-term suggestions:

Changing the present main fan by higher capacity main fan.

B.C.C.L. are taking necessary action to implement the above suggestions.

Rest Houses for Coolies on Central Railway

8638. **SHRIMATI USHA VERMA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long standing demand to construct rest-houses for licensed coolies on Bhusawal, Manmad, Khandwa, Bina and Akola railway stations of Central Railway;

(b) whether Railway Board have issued a circular on 9th December, 1989 in this regard and have asked all General Managers to construct rest houses for licensed coolies;

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard;

(d) whether the railway administration has received representations from National Federation of Railway Porters, Vendors and Bearers for the construction of rest-houses for them on the aforesaid stations; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Some representations have been received.

(b) Yes, Sir. A circular was issued on 9th December, 1988 (and not on 9.12.89) asking the Zonal Railways to review the resting facilities for the licensed porters at stations and to provide the same wherever these are inadequate.

(c) Railways have taken/are taking action keeping in view the need/justification for such rest shelters at various stations within the availability of funds.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Rest shelters for licensed porters are available at Bhusawal and Akola and are under construction at Khandwa and Bina stations. A rest shelter at Manmad Station is proposed to be included in 1990-91 Works Programme subject to availability of funds.

[English]

Air Taxi Operation in Southern Zone

8639. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any more requests for permission to operate Air Taxis in the Southern Zone i.e. from airports like Trivandrum, Cochine, Calicut, Madras, Bangalore etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Subsequent to the meeting of the Air Taxi Committee held on 30.4.1990, no more applications has been received for permission to operate Air Taxis in the Southern Zone.

[Translation]

New Train Services in Madhya Pradesh

8640. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce new trains covering Madhya Pradesh during 1990-91; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). The following new trains introduced in May 1990 time table pass through Madhya Pradesh:

- i) Jammu Tawi-Mangalore/Tiruchchirapalli weekly Express (via Gwalior-Bina-Bhopal-Itarsi).
- ii) Surat-Varanasi bi-weekly express (via Khandwa-Itarsi-Jabalpur-Katni-Satna).
- iii) Dadar-Muzaffarpur weekly Express (via Khandwa-Itarsi-Jabalpur-Katni-Satna).