

handled at the station. This includes a waiting hall and an upper class waiting room.

There is, therefore, no proposal for the present to further augment these amenities at the station.

#### **Standard of Players of the Indian cricket Team**

659. SHRIV. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the recent months our cricket players lost the matches against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and England;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the standard of the players and to encourage the youths;

(c) whether Government propose to consider granting our players pension and extending to them facilities like playgrounds, accommodation etc; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN): (a) The performance of our cricket team in the recent months against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and England was as under:

- (i) India beat Pakistan in the Quarter final of Wills World Cup 1996. India lost to Pakistan in a match at Singapore and in a match in the Pepsi Sharjah Cup, but won again in the return match at Sharjah;
- (ii) India lost against Sri Lanka in the first Semi-final of Wills World Cup, 1996 but beat Sri Lanka in a Singer Cup Match at Singapore; and
- (iii) The Indian team lost One Day Series against England and the First Test Match, but they were unlucky not to have won the Second and the Third Tests.

(b) Government have launched a number of Schemes for improving the standard of the

players and to encourage youth. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is also providing a lot of International exposure to Under-16 and Under-19 level Cricketers. Besides, Coaching Camps and Cricket Academies are also organised by the BCCI.

(c) and (d): Pension is being provided to outstanding sportspersons under the Scheme of National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons, who are in indigent condition or whose monthly income is less than Rs. 2,000/- per month. 73 sportspersons are getting pension under the above Scheme. BCCI also has a Benevolent Fund Scheme under which assistance is given to the Cricketers after their retirement. The Board also provides for internal travel of the first class Cricketers in the country. Financial assistance is also given by the Government for creation of sports infrastructure including playgrounds and for purchase of sports equipment.

#### **First Aid facilities at Stations on the Northern Railway**

660. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the stations where Chemists Stalls/First Aid facilities have been provided on the Northern Railway Stations upto 31st May, 1996; and

(b) the steps taken by the Northern Railway for providing Chemist Stalls/First Aid facilities at Stations after instructions issued by Ministry of Railways contained in their letter No. 73/TG-III/600/78 dated 28th June, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Chemist Stalls have been set up at the following stations after 1980:

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. New Delhi,          | 5. Chandigarh, |
| 2. Hazrat Nizamuddin   | 6. Attari,     |
| 3. Delhi Sarai Rohilla | 7. Amritsar    |
| 4. Delhi Cantt.        | 8. Varanasi.   |

First Aid facilities in the form of First Aid boxes are available with all Station Masters, Assistant Stations Masters and the operating staff at stations who are trained in imparting first aid. Doctors from nearby hospitals and private practitioners, whose names are