

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The communication and navigation facilities at airports are constantly modernised in a phased manner either by replacement of old technology equipment or by provision of new facilities.

Reservation in Indian Universities for the children of NRIs

2350. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce reservation for the children of Non-resident Indians in the Indian Universities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) No such proposal is at present under the consideration of the Government.

(c) The University Grants Commission which considered a suggestion to reserve seats for the children of NRIs in the Universities in the country, felt that such reservation would not be appropriate. The Commission however felt that steps could be considered for relaxing the time schedule for submission of applications by NRIs, and assisting them by providing information on equivalence of qualifications obtained by their children in foreign countries, etc.

Fatal accidents on National Highway No. 1

2351. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to divert the National Highway Number one from out of the Allahabad city due to increase in the number of fatal accidents during the last three years;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. National Highway No. 1 does not pass through the Allahabad city. Length of National Highway No. 2 passing through Allahabad city is, however, being considered for improvement as a suitable urban link.

Trains from Dehradun to Kanyakumari

2352. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of pilgrims/tourists/defence personnels, who have to travel from Hardwar/Dehradun to Kanyakumari via Allahabad, are put to great difficulty in the absence of a direct train from Dehradun to Kanyakumari;

(b) whether Government have received any representations for starting a train, Uttara Khand Express from Dehradun to Kanyakumari via Hardwar and Allahabad;

(c) if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(d) if no action has been taken what are the reasons therefor.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Representations have been received for running a direct train from Kanyakumari to Dehradun.