

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) About 52,000 overaged Broad Gauge and Metre Gauge wagons are required to be replaced during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(b) Provision has been made in the Seventh Plan for acquisition of 96,000 wagons to meet the needs or replacement and the anticipated growth of freight traffic.

#### West Bengal Government's stand on Model Schools

736. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Kanti Biswas, Minister, Secondary education, Government of West Bengal, has in a letter addressed to him, conveyed the views of West Bengal Government on the proposed Model School Scheme, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir. In his letter dated 2nd April, 1986 the Minister-in-charge of Primary and Secondary Education, Government of West Bengal has stated, among other things, that the resources of Government should be utilised for establishing new Primary and Secondary schools, improving the existing schools and launching various incentive programmes, to ensure universal enrolment and retention of all the children in the age group 6 to 14 years rather than for the setting up of a few elitist Navodaya Vidyalayas. He has also stated that in the Navodaya Vidyalayas English and Hindi are proposed to be simultaneously used as medium of instruction and mother tongue is to be taught as a third lan-

guage in non-Hindi areas which is against the accepted principle of educating children in their mother tongue. He has requested for details of the scheme of setting up Navodaya Vidyalayas in each District of the country so that they can take further action in the matter.

(b) The scheme to set up Navodaya Vidyalayas in each District has been largely welcomed by the State Governments. The broad aims for establishment of Navodaya Vidyalayas are to serve the objective of equity and social justice, promote national integration, provide opportunities to the talented children to develop their full potential and facilitate the nation-wide programme of school improvement. These Vidyalayas are designed to make available good education to children from rural area particularly those from weaker sections of the society. Hindi and English will be the medium of instruction in these schools and a Modern Indian language would be taught as a third language. However, since most of the students entering Navodaya Vidyalayas in Class-VI would know only their mother tongue/regional language when they are admitted in class VI, a transition period of 2-3 years will be provided during which the regional language will be the main medium alongwith intensive teaching of Hindi/English both as subjects and as co-medium so that there would be no difficulty in switching over to Hindi and English as medium of instruction after this stage. The details of the scheme are being despatched to the Hon'ble Minister.

#### Flesh Trade

737. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item