

Employment of seasonal watermen in Railways

2582. SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the period for which seasonal Watermen are employed in Railways, zone-wise;

(b) what is the number of such Watermen at present; and

(c) whether the period corresponds with that defined by the Meteorological Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. X. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Neelachal Express

2583. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to run the Neelachal Express via Mirzapur daily instead of thrice a week; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Augmentation of irrigation potential

2584. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to augment the irrigation potential in the country as envisaged in the revised 20-point programme;

(b) what results have so far been achieved in this regard; and

(c) whether any reports have been asked for from the State Governments with regard to the steps taken by them to augment the irrigation potential and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) All the State Governments have been advised to allocate maximum possible funds for the ongoing irrigation projects in order to achieve the benefits with the least possible delay. Quarterly progress reports are also being obtained from them. Against a target of 2.345 million na. for the year 1982-83, the estimated achievement is 2.231 million na.

Geriatric care

2585. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Geriatric care being taken in Delhi by Helpage India;

(b) whether Government propose to set up some such mobile units in different parts of the country, especially in rural areas to help old and destitute people; and -

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUD-BEN M. JOSHI): (a) Yes.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.