

(b) if so, what is the schedule of this project; and

(c) whether Government propose to give priority to Ludhiana and Jullundur sectors which are the most heavily loaded sectors with vehicular traffic?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However due to the financial constraints and *inter-se* priority of the projects, only stretches having heavy vehicular traffic have been selected for four-laning during Sixth Plan. Ludhiana-Jullundur sector is one of the selected stretches which is proposed to be taken up for four-laning during Sixth Plan.

Modification of rules relating to medical facilities to the Members of Parliament.

120. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation from Members of Parliament regarding the modification of rules about providing medical facilities to them;

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

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These relates to authorities private doctors to attend to Members of Parliament, dispensing with the essentiality certificate prescribed under rules for reimbursement of medical expenses, and allowing reimbursement of expenses for tonics.

(c) The suggestions were examined but it was not found possible to accept these suggestions.

Cancellation of trains due to coal shortage

121. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of trains cancelled due to coal shortage during the last 12 months;

(b) which of these trains have since been restored and on what dates; and

(c) by when Government propose to restore the remaining trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) On 31-1-1979 there were 216 pairs of trains cancelled due to shortage of Loco coal. By 30-4-1979, 99.5 pairs of trains were restored and the number of cancelled trains stood at 116.5 pairs. Deterioration in the availability of loco coal in subsequent months again led to cancellation of trains and by 30-9-1979 the number of cancelled trains rose to 255 pairs. Since then with better availability of loco coal it has been possible to restore 135 pairs of trains and the number of cancelled trains on 27-1-1980 was 120 pairs.

The information about details of such trains cancelled/restored from time to time during the last 12 months is not readily available being voluminous in character.

(c) All possible efforts are being made to improve the coal supply position in consultation with the coal producing authorities and the Department of coal.

Chinese forces in Pakistan

122. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 20th January, 1980 to the effect that Chinese forces are assisting the Afghan rebels in Pakistan in fighting against the Russian forces;