

**Contamination of drinking water supplied to the passengers of North-Eastern Railway**

1608. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article appeared in the recent news of the 'Indian Journal of Medical Science' regarding contamination of drinking water supplied to passengers of North Eastern Railway, if so, what are Government's findings in this regard; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to prevent the contamination of drinking water in the trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) The article that has been published recently in the Indian Medical Journal is apparently based on the work done under the guidance of one Dr. Mathur in the GSVM Medical College, sometime in 1977.

Similar reports appeared in various newspapers in 1977 stating that one Dr. Mathur of GSVM Medical College had conducted tests on drinking water samples drawn from some of the Railway Stations on the North Eastern Railway, particularly between Kanpur and Fategarh and had found the water to be highly contaminated.

Efforts were made to contact Dr. Mathur to find out details of his investigation. The Director, Medical and Health Services, Uttar Pradesh was also addressed by the Railway Ministry to advise Dr. Mathur to furnish the data collected by him to the Railway Officers. Even after meeting Dr. Mathur no details could be obtained.

The Railway, on their own, conducted their own investigations and adopted intensive chlorination at all

the places. At certain locations where cess pools had developed around railway hand pumps, action has been taken to remove this source of contamination.

As far as open wells are concerned, the Administration has to work within certain limitations as no fool-proof arrangements are available within the available resources for making the water from wells and shallow tube-wells absolutely bacteria free. This problem is further accentuated as the Railway sources of water are also utilised by local public who bathe around the open wells, drop mud stained utensils in the wells and thereby pollute the source.

All normal precautions are taken by the Railway Administration to ensure that the drinking water supply at the Railway Stations is potable.

**Direct coaches for Bangalore in the Tamil Nadu Express**

1609. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of bogies in certain train has been increased by attaching double engines with them;

(b) if so, what results have been achieved thereby so far; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce direct coaches for Bangalore in the Tamil Nadu Express after double heading the train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) 121/122 Madras-New Delhi Tamil Nadu Expresses are being run, as an experimental measure, with two engines from 29-1-79. It is too early to assess the full implications of this experiment.

(c) No.