

meagre and if so, what action has been taken by the Central Government on the request made by the Maharashtra Government for allocation of more funds for the purpose?]

नौवहन और परिवहन मन्त्रालय में प्रभारी राज्य मन्त्री (श्री चांद राम) : 1978-79 के दौरान महाराष्ट्र में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग के अनुरक्षण और मरम्मत के लिए २२४.६२ लाख रुपए का राशि स्वीकृति की गई है। इसमें से राज्य सरकार ने दिसम्बर 1978 तक केवल 150.54 लाख रुपए के व्यय की सूचना दी है। इस आधार पर अभी 74.27 लाख रुपए की राशि अभी भी उपलब्ध है जो कि बाकी बचे तीन मास के लिए पर्याप्त समझी गई है।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): A sum of Rs. 224.61 lakhs has been released for the maintenance and repairs of National Highways in Maharashtra during 1978-79. Against this, the State Government have reported an expenditure of Rs. 150.54 lakhs only upto December 1978. On this basis a sum of Rs. 74.07 lakhs is still available which is considered adequate for the remaining three months.]

#### **Introduction of North Bengal Express from Calcutta to North Bengal districts**

2111. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the people of North Bengal for the introduction of the North Bengal Express from Calcutta to North Bengal Districts; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to introduce the said train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes.

†[ ] English translation.

(b) Introduction of an additional Express train between Calcutta and stations in North Bengal is at present, operationally not feasible for want of spare line capacity on sections en-route and of terminal facilities in Calcutta area.

#### **Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi**

2112. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ceiling of one of the blocks in the Safdarjung Hospital fell down due to dilapidated condition of the building; and

(b) if so, what measures Government are taking to protect the patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI RAY): (a) Yes.

(b) Administrative approval and Expenditure sanction for reroofing of the old barracks in Safdarjung Hospital have already been issued and the work is in progress. The Out-Patient Departments and Dispensaries which were housed in such barracks have been shifted either to the 'Pucca' rooms or the temporary tents provided for the purpose.

#### **Karnataka State served by Railway Service Commissions for recruitment**

2113. SHRI SATCHINDANANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka is served by three Railway Service Commissions for the purpose of recruitment;

(b) if so, what action has been taken to safeguard the interests of local people in the matter of recruitment in the Railways;

(c) whether Government propose to set up another railway Service Commission in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, by when it will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) Recruitment to Class III services by the Railway Service Commissions is on zonal railway basis. The boundaries of each Railway Zone do not coincide with the State boundaries and each Railway Zone traverses more than one State. In order to attract local persons vacancies in pay scales the minimum of which is Rs. 425 or less and which form the bulk of the vacancies, are advertised in all regional newspapers commonly read in the area where the vacancies exist. The Railway Service Commissions also hold written tests and interviews at all important Centres. The Recruitment procedure, therefore, provides enough scope to fulfil regional aspirations.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Metre gauge sector between Hospet and Hubli**

2114. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that metre gauge rails between Hospet and Hubli have already reached a saturated point;

(b) whether Government propose to extend the Hospet broad gauge line to Hubli; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) No. Capacity utilisation on the section is 68 per cent of the available capacity.

(b) and (c) In view of the traffic levels—current as well as anticipated for next few years—extension of E.G. line to Hubli is not contemplated at present.

#### **Railway system in Karnataka State**

2115. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka State is deficient in rail system, particularly in broad gauge as compared to that in other States in the South;

(b) whether Government have received representations from Karnataka Government for conversion of trunk routes and additional railway lines; and

(c) what action the Central Government have taken to meet the demand of Karnataka Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI (SHEO NARAIN): (a) Railway network in Karnataka consists predominantly of M.G. lines, being a part of the well-knit metre gauge system of Southern India.

(b) Yes.

(c) Conversion of lines to broad gauge is closely linked with level of traffic handled on the lines, and the extent of intergauge transshipment involved. Based on these criteria, conversion of Guntakal-Bangalore route has been undertaken, and also Bangalore-Mysore conversion included in the 1979-80 Railway budget.

#### **Report of the Committee on Overseas Employment**

2116. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the report of the committee on overseas employment; and

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken thereon?