

is cleared the same day waiving off the minimum weight condition; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that clearance of traffic under this system results in huge wastage of wagon capacity, if so what is the extent of wastage of wagon capacity in terms of (i) net tonne kilometers; and (ii) their money value, monthwise and Zone-wise upto June, 1977?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) Yes, Sir. In September, 1976.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. With rapid movement of smalls wagons by fast services, the overall number of wagons utilized in the movement of smalls in the entire system has comparatively come down

Surgical Instruments Unit at Madras

*177. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO: SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to revive the sick surgical instruments unit of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited at Madras; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and

(b) Based on the recommendations of the Indrajit Singh Committee, which submitted its report in February 1976, an on-the-spot assessment of the problems of the Surgical Instruments Plant was made by the Team of Senior Officers recently. It is proposed as a result to improve the working of the Plant by diversification into the manufacture of other

engineering items and job orders from other public sector undertakings. In addition to setting up of a formulation unit within this complex is also under active consideration of the Government. The manufacture of Surgical Instruments will be continued and, as soon as the plant has stabilised, it will be expanded.

Late Running of Trains

*178. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 7 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th June, 1977 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two Passenger Trains running between Kacheguda and Manmad on the Metre Gauge section of the South Central Railway have been running late for a number of years now; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) The punctuality performance of 561 Dn/562 Up and 563 Dn/564 Up Kacheguda-Manmad Passengers has not been satisfactory due to a variety of reasons like alarm chain pulling, mechanical failures, crossings/ precedences etc. Efforts are being made to ensure punctual running of these trains.

Proposals to bring Chandigarh on the main line and to connect it with a direct day-time fast Train

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

(a) whether Government propose to bring Chandigarh on the main line by connecting it to Ludhiana on the one side and Jagawhari on the other;

(b) whether Government also propose to connect Chandigarh by a direct day-time fast train; and