

[10 March, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) what are the reasons for having representation in the Council only from 7 States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The first meeting of the council was held on 16th February, 2006. The Council is scheduled to meet once every year.

(c) The council comprises of 31 Ministers of Government of India, Chief Ministers of seven states, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission and 15 representatives from civil society as member. Hon'ble Prime Minister is the Chairman and Minister of Health and Family Welfare is the Vice-Chairman of this Council.

(d) The states/UTs in India have been categorized into high prevalence (6 states), moderate prevalence (3 states), highly vulnerable (14 States) and vulnerable (10 states) based on prevalence of HIV/AIDS and various associated vulnerability factors. The Council is represented by Chief Ministers of three high prevalence states such as Tamilnadu, Maharashtra and Nagaland, one from moderate prevalence state i.e. Gujarat and Chief Ministers of three highly vulnerable states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal as members. The reason for having representation from these 7 states is, therefore, to ensure fair representation of different regions and to get suggestions to strengthen the government response for combating HIV/AIDS in India.

#### **Monabao—Khokhrapar rail link**

2056. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when railway link was to be started between Monabao—Khokhrapar on Rajasthan Sindh border according to the agreement with Pakistan;

(b) the reasons that starting of Thar Express train on this side is being delayed and date of starting this train is being postponed;

(c) whether Pakistan insists to run this train upto Ajmer; and

(d) what is the response of Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) An agreement between the Government of India and Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to run Thar Express" a weekly broad gauge Express passenger train between Monabao (India) and the Zero Point Railway Station near Khokhrapar (Pakistan) with effect from 18.2.2006 has been signed on 31.1.2006. The train service has started on 18.2 2006.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No request from Pakistan to run this train upto Ajmer has so far been received in this Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Staff working at road side stations**

2057. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of staff, working at road side stations;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no accommodation for their (staff) stay rest and cooking on such stations;

(c) if so, by when his Ministry would solve this problem;

(d) whether his Ministry has any plans to solve this problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Pending overbridges/underbridges in Uttar Pradesh**

2058. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals pending with the Railways for the construction of overbridges/underbridges on sharing basis received from