

and railway ancillaries manufactured by them.

INDIA JAPAN TRADE COMMITTEES FOR EXPORT PROMOTION

150. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken to establish India-Japan Trade Committees in India and Japan with a view to increasing the trade between the two countries ; and

(b) if so, whether officials and non-officials would also be included in the Committees ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SCARCITY OF BABY FOOD

151. SHRI G. MURAHARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the scarcity of baby food throughout the country ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the scarcity ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA) : (a) General shortage of baby food has been reported in some parts of the country.

(b) the present production of baby food is not adequate for meeting the current demand. Steps have already been taken for enlarging the base for production which will relieve the shortage.

SUSPENSION OF NIGHT TRAIN SERVICE IN UPPER ASSAM

152. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that night train services have been suspended in Upper Assam for the last few weeks ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) and (b) Night

running of passenger carrying trains is suspended on Lumding-Badarpur and Lutting-Mariani sections from 20.00 hours to 04.00 hours and 22.00 hours to 04.00 hours respectively for security reasons.

RUNNING OF CONDUCTORS OF MAIL TRAINS

153. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD PAHADIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conductors on mail trains on different Railways run from the originating station to the terminus ; and

(b) if the arrangement is not universal for all trains, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) and (b) Conductor Guards have been provided on important Mail and Express Trains between specific stations wherever their services are considered necessary and justified. On some trains, Conductor Guards work through from the originating station to the destination station.

CRITERIA FOR ALLOTMENT OF BERTHS

154. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD PAHADIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any criteria is followed while allotting lower and upper berths in first class coaches and lower, middle and upper berths in third class sleeper coaches:

(b) if not, whether any complaint or suggestion has been received by Railways for not paying any consideration for sick, old and fat persons or for ladies with babies, while allotting the berths ; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) Yes. Lower berths available in train services are allotted on 'first come, first served, basis ; compact accommodation being allotted to families. Certain number of lower berths are also earmarked for ladies, invalids and those asking for lower berths for any special reason. In full third class sleeper coaches (2-tier and 3-tier), a bay has also been set apart for the exclusive use of ladies.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.