

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to launch a free health insurance cover for those who undergo family planning;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) whether the proposed insurance cover is in place of the other incentives that are now being given?

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

(b) The National Population Policy, 2000 envisages formulation of Family Welfare Linked Health Insurance Plan as a motivational measure for wider adoption of the small family norm by couples below the poverty line. Various options are under examination in consultation with the Department of Insurance and Insurance Companies.

(c) No, Sir.

Safety measures by Konkan Railway Corporation

140. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the safety measures taken by Konkan Railway Corporation to prevent accidents;

(b) if safety measures have been taken, the reasons for the recent railway accident that took place between Vir and Karanjadi stations;

(c) whether the Railways have sanctioned additional funds for inclinometers and safety meshes on cuttings above five metres; and

(d) will the Konkan Railway Corporation assure full safety to the passengers travelling by trains run by Konkan Railway Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Safety measures taken by Konkan Railway Corporation to prevent accidents include construction of Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) retaining wall, Gabion wall, Micropiling, Rockbolting, Bouldernetting etc. at cuttings and tunnels, identified vulnerable as per guidelines of geological and engineering experts, at a cost of Rs. 47.32 crores during the last five years. In addition, piloting and monsoon patrolling is also being done now in vulnerable areas. Commissioner of Railway Safety, Central Circle who is conducting the statutory enquiry into the

accident of 2620 Up Matsyagandha Express on 16.06.2004, has concluded in his preliminary inquiry report that accident was caused due to failure of east side slope of Ambivali cutting resulting in falling of boulder and soil, causing obstruction on track.

(c) and (d) Konkan Railway Corporation have sanctioned installation of inclinometers at a cost of Rs. 1.53 crores. Steps have also been taken now by Konkan Railway Corporation to sanction provision of safety nets on cuttings where the height is more than 5 metres. Konkan Railway have also taken a number of further steps like piloting of mail/express trains between 7.00 pm to 7.00 am, reducing the speed in vulnerable sections, monsoon patrolling at vulnerable locations, to enhance safety of train operations.

Late running of Kaiflat Express

†141. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the "Kaiflat Express" running between Delhi and Azamgarh often reaches its destination late;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the passengers are facing a lot of inconvenience in getting eatables in the absence of a pantry car in this train; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps being taken to ensure timely running of this train as well as to attach a pantry car?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Punctuality of 4025/4026 Delhi-Azamgarh Kaiflat Express has been affected due to equipment failures and other reasons which are beyond the control of Railways like bad weather, power grid failures, Alarm chain pulling, miscreant activities and cattle run over etc.

(b) and (c) Kaiflat Express does not qualify for provision of Pantry car as per extant policy. However, instructions exist to make available catering/vending facilities from static units enroute. Efforts are being made to control the equipment failures and other factors which are within the control of the Railways to improve its punctuality.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.