

Roll on and Roll off systems in the Railways

*746. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives and the achievements of Roll on and Roll off (Ro-Ro) system introduced in Konkan Railway and its advantages over normal goods traffic;

(b) whether the Railways propose to consider experimental introduction of this system in NF Railway, by declaration of tea as a preferential traffic, like coal, to avail huge tea traffic of the region;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Roll-on-Roll-off system introduced on Konkan Railway envisages to combine the railways strength in long-haul with the flexibility of door-to-door services provided by the road-ways in such terrains where the concept is mutually beneficial to rail, road and customers.

(b) There is no proposal for introduction of Ro-Ro system on N.F. Railway.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The system is not considered to be an optimal service for this region.

Lok Jumbish Project for elementary education

*747 SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new phase of Lok Jumbish Project has become operational;

(b) if so, what the targets fixed and achievements made under the Project, as on 31st March, 2002;

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(c) whether there is any proposal to revamp the project for achieving desirable goal of universal elementary education;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes Sir, for a period of 5 years from July, 1999 to June, 2004.

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) A sum of Rs. 140.70 crores has been sanctioned against which Rs. 125.56 crores has been spent in Phase III of project, upto 31.3.2002.

Air pollution in Bangalore

~~*748~~ SHRI K RAHMAN KHAN

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to find out average pollution levels in major cities of the countries, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware that air pollution is alarming in Bangalore; and

(c) if so, what are the guidelines and measures taken by Government to control air pollution, caused due to increasing number of vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) A network of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations has been established in the various cities of the country to monitor various parameters of air pollution, including Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x), Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM). There are 295 Air Quality Monitoring Stations in the country and the air quality monitoring is carried out by the