

Subsidy in Railway Freight on Perishable Products

9871. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways allow subsidies in Railways' freight rates for carrying perishable fruits and similar other agricultural products, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether betel-leave are also taken as perishable agricultural products, if so, the concessions being provided to this commodity; and

(c) if no concession is given, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Perishables like fruits, vegetables, etc. are charged at Concessional Parcel (CP-2) Scale of rates which is about 50% of the General Parcel (GP) Scale of rates.

(b) Betal-leaves are charged at Concessional parcel (CP-1) Scale of rates which is about 80% of the General parcel Scale of rates.

(c) Does not arise.

Harassment by Ticketless Travellers in K.K.Express

9872. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of ticketless travellers of those who purchase second class tickets are harassing the travellers who reserve their seats and berths especially from Agra onwards in K.K. Express from Trivandrum to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed by Government in this regard; and

(c) the amount collected as penalty from ticketless travellers in this particular train during the last four months?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Some instances have come to notice.

(b) Regular/intensive checks are being conducted to check the entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches and persons found travelling unauthorisedly are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of India Railway Act.

(c) Train-wise details are not maintained.

Kuttipuram Guruvayoor Rail Line

9873. SHRI P.A. ANTONY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting up a railway link between Kuttipuram and Guruvayoor in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). A survey was carried out for a BG rail line from Trichur to Kuttipuram via Guruvayood in 1981. Construction of the line between Trichur and Guruvayoor has only been approved for the present.

Charter Hiring of Rigs By ONGC

9874. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and natural Gas Commission has signed another contract for charter-hiring of two rigs with the Chowgules;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(c) the places where these two rigs will be installed; and

(d) to what extent these will be beneficial?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Two contracts have been signed by ONGC with M/s. Chowgule for the charter hiring of two land rigs for a period of two years on a day rate basis for drilling operations in Rajasthan. These two rigs are yet to be mobilised by M/s. Chowgule.

(d) Drilling with these rigs will help in the acceleration of exploration/exploitation of hydrocarbons in Rajasthan.

[*Translation*]

Timing of Jind-Panipat Train

9875. SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the train running on Jind-Panipat section starts from Delhi at 4.10 a.m. and reaches back at 10.30 p.m. and whether Government propose to revert to old time scheduled which was effective five years back, by rescheduling the start of the trains from Jind at 5.30 a.m. and departure from Delhi at 6.30 p.m. to avoid inconvenience to the employees; and

(b) if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Any further changes to follow old schedule is, however, operationally not feasible.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

New Train Between Bangalore and Bhubaneswar

9876. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to run a new train between Bangalore and Bhubaneswar via Madras Vijayawada etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Computerisation of Passenger Reservation in Maharashtra

9877. SHRI UDAISINGRAO NANSHEB GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for selection of railway stations for computerisation of passenger reservation service;

(b) the railway stations in Maharashtra where computerised reservation system has already been introduced; and

(c) whether these services are proposed to be started at Kolhapur railway station also in Maharashtra?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Stations are selected for providing computerised reservation services on the basis of their reservation work-load and importance, such as, being State Capital or Zonal Headquarter.

(b) Computerised reservation system has already been introduced at Bombay VT, Bombay Central and Churchgate stations in Maharashtra.

(c) The reservation workload at Kolhapur does not justify computerisation at this stage.

Reduction of Interest Rate to State Electricity Boards

9878. SHRI VENKATA KRISHNA REDDY KASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering reducing the interest rate on the loans given to the State Electricity Boards for rural electrification and pumps set energisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.