

ited by severe resource crunch and constraints of manufacturing capacity for coaches coupled with heavy demand for their induction on regular services.

[English]

#### Reservation system at Kharagpur Station

30. SHRI STYAGOPAL MISRA: will the Minister of RAILWAYS please to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the reservation system at Kharagpur Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN.): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing arrangements are considered adequate. The passenger reservation workload does not justify provision of computerized reservation system at this station.

#### Whales and Sea Mammals

31 SHRI BHUPINDERSINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any data has been collected on the population/migration patterns of whales and other such big sea mammals in the territorial waters and exclusive economic zone of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether India is participating in any

international effort to conserve the population of such species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) India is a member of the international Whaling Commission and the Convention on Conservation of Migratory species, which are responsible for organizing international efforts to conserve whales and other marine mammals. Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), of which India is a signatory, there is a ban on international trade in the endangered species of marine mammals and their products.

#### Freight rates

32. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of increase in freight rate and luggage charges and the effective date thereof;

(b) whether the second class passengers are the most hard hit as a result of such increase;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to withdraw this increase by reviewing its decision;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN.): (a) There has been no increase in freight charges for goods and parcel services after 16-8-1991. Only the