

(c) Yes Sir. Meetings of the Committee were held on 12th November 1991 and 16th January 1992.

(d) Does not arise.

Railway Line from Pandharpur to Kurduwadi

4024. SHRIRAMNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of broad gauge railway line between Pandharpur and Kurduwadi on Central Railway is under consideration;

(b) if so, since when and the present position of this project; and

(c) the reasons for not taking up this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The work has been included in the Action Plan for gauge conversion drawn by Railways. Work will be taken up in the coming years subject to availability of resources.

[Translation]

New Station in Kota

4025. SHRI RAM AWADH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a second railway station for Kota city in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pilferage of Coal in Samastipur Division

4026 SHRI BHOGENDRAJHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scale pilferage of coal from the rail engines at Khajauli Sakri, Nirmali, Sharasa, Barauni (Garhara) and particularly at Jainagar station of North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during 1991-92;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to check it and to punish the persons responsible therefor; and

(d) the estimated and actual expenditure on coal for the various trains on Samastipur division

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

(b) Does not arise

(c) The following measures are being taken to prevent thefts of coal

1. Intensive beat patrolling in the yards and other vulnerable sections.

2. Crime Intelligence staff is deployed to collect information about thieves and receivers of stolen coal and raids are organised to detect stolen coal.

3. Surprise checks are being conducted in vulnerable sections and bad spots to catch the criminals.

4. Dog Squads are also deployed for preventive and detective duties.

5. Close co-ordination between the RPF and GRP is maintained at various levels to deal with criminals and receivers of stolen coal.

As and when cases involving complicity of railway employees comes to light, deterrent action is taken against them both with a view to punish them and also to set an example to others. Outsiders are prosecuted in a court of law.

(d) The estimated cost is Rs. 9, 14,07, 000/- and actual expenditure is Rs. 9.22, 60,000/-.

Funds for Improvement of Science Education

4027. SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any direction to State Governments to provide adequate funds for improvement of Science Education in all the recognised schools in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the Government and recognised schools of Madhya Pradesh have been provided funds therefor; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, the Union Government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Improvement of Science Education in

Schools provides assistance to the State Governments/ UT Administrations for the following components in a phased manner:-

- provision of science kits to government and Government aided upper primary schools;
- Upgradation and strengthening of science laboratories in government and Government-aided secondary and senior secondary schools;
- Supply of library books to government and government aided secondary and senior secondary schools;
- Setting up of District Resource Centres for Science Education;
- Training of science and mathematics teachers.

(c) & (d). Under the aforesaid Scheme, Government of Madhya Pradesh has so far been provided assistance for the following items:-

- provisions of science kits to 6291 upper primary schools;
- setting up of new laboratories in 650 secondary/senior secondary schools;
- supply of library books to 625 secondary/senior secondary schools;
- Organisation of 140 programmes for training science and mathematics teachers.

Pending full utilisation of the earlier grant-in-aid, fresh proposals submitted by the State government of Madhya Pradesh under the Scheme could not be considered.