

[Translation]

Doubling of Railway Lines

775. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doubling of Railway Line in Muzaffarpur-Samastipur section of the Eastern Railway was initiated long before but the work has not been completed so far;

(b) whether the work of Doubling the railway line between the Muzaffarpur and Siho Railway Station has been completed;

(c) the reasons for not initiating the work of Doubling the Railway line between the Dholi Railway Station and Karpurigram so far; and

(d) the time by which the work on the above section is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) to (d). The work has been completed and commissioned except between Siho-Karpurigram which is planned to be taken up in 1996-97 and completed in 1998-99.

[English]

R and D Programme

776. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any long-term programme has been formulated for the research and development technology in the industrial sphere; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNÉSH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b). Government has evolved several measures to promote and encourage Research and Development in the industrial sphere and to increase the interaction and collaboration between Industry and Government funded R & D laboratories/institutions with a view to generate contem-

porary and internationally competitive commercial technologies. Some of these measures are :

- (i) Income Tax relief on R & D Expenditure as per the provisions contained in IT Act, 1961.
- (ii) Weighted Tax Deduction at 125% under section 35(2AA) of I.T. Act 1961 for approved sponsored research programmes in approved National Laboratories functioning under the aegis of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Department of Electronics, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Atomic Energy, Universities and IITs.
- (iii) Direct funding of R & D projects jointly formulated by industry and government laboratories, IITs and Universities for developing and commercialising specific technologies relating to a range of industrial products. This funding is provided through various programmes in Government Departments, viz. Programme Aimed at Technological Self Reliance (PATSER) of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Programme on Home Grown Technologies of the Department of Science and Technology, Programme on Funding R & D in Electronics to Industry (FRIEND) of the Department of Electronics and similar R & D funding programmes of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and other scientific Departments/Ministries.
- (iv) Creation of a Technology Development Fund by way of collections on account of 5% cess on payments of royalty on imported technologies, under the Research and Development Cess Act, 1986. Necessary bills have been passed to operationalise the Technology Development Fund through the Department of Science and Technology Suitable mechanisms to administer the Fund are being evolved.

[Translation]

Naval Ties

777. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to strengthen the naval ties between India and South Africa;

(b) if so, the details thereby;

(c) whether efforts have also been made to promote such ties with other countries of the world; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Government is pursuing a policy of establishing and enhancing cooperation in the defence sector, with various friendly countries including South Africa. Steps are being taken to give effect to this policy in a phased manner and to the extent necessitated by, and consistent with national interest. Naval cooperation with other countries including South Africa, potentially encompasses reciprocal visits and representations, joint exercises training of personnel and goodwill visits of naval ships and hydrographic surveys.

[English]

Kapurthala Coach Factory

778. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a steady rise in employing private agencies in the Kapurthala Coach Factory for the manufacturing process of coaches;

(b) whether this is part of the liberalisation/privatisation policy of the Government;

(c) the details of the private agencies employed and the respective jobs being handled by them;

(d) whether this has affected the working production of Madras Coach Factory; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) There is no private agency employed in Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala presently.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Railway Line

779. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the construction of Tamluk-Digha Railway line is likely to be completed; and

(b) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) and (b). The work is being progressed as per the availability of resources and its completion is subject to the availability of funds in the next few years.

Higher Education

780. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Punnayya Committee on Higher Education has submitted their Report;

(b) if so, the recommendations implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to the information furnished by UGC, the report of the Punnayya Committee, together with the views of UGC thereon, has been sent to Vice-Chancellors of the Central, State and deemed Universities as also to the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations for implementation of recommendations relevant to them.