

Yes, Sir. The Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation had convened a Conference on 19-20 December, 1995 at New Delhi which was attended to by Ministers of Housing, Urban Development and Local Administration of various States, Secretaries and officials of the State Governments, Mayors, Presidents and Chairmen of the elected local bodies. The Minister of Urban Development also participated in the Conference and chaired one of the sessions which dealt on the issues of Constitution (74th Amendment) Act and the problems of local/Municipal bodies.

The Department of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation also held a second meeting on 15.1.1996 in which Ministers and Secretaries in-charge of Urban Development/Local Government participated.

(b) The salient features of the conclusions emerged from the above meetings are as under :-

- (i) Administrative and financial powers (as envisaged in the Constitutions (74th Amendment Act) should be devolved on Urban local bodies in a speedy manner.
  - (ii) Specific development funds should be created to assist municipalities in undertaking self-sustaining civic programmes including development of infrastructure.
  - (iii) Waste Management practices in towns and cities should be improved considerably and facilities be strengthened.
  - (iv) HUDCO should play a stronger role in assisting municipalities in the implementation of various schemes
- (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The responses received from the State Governments indicate that the provisions in the old Municipal Acts have been amended to bring them in conformity with the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act.

*[Transiation]*

#### **Railway Lines**

198. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI AHSRAF FATMI :

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to convert unprofitable Railway lines into profitable ones under the North-Eastern and Western Railway; and

(b) if so, the number of unprofitable Railway lines in 1993-94 made profitable in 1994-95 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) and (b). As a

result of several measures taken by the Railway, the earnings have generally increased on the unremunerative lines but not adequately so as to make them remunerative lines.

*[English]*

#### **Frequency of Rajdhani Express**

199. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the frequency of New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) There is no proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Cleanliness Drive**

200. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have launched a cleanliness drive in January, 1996.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent and the progress made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) and (b). With a view to improving the standard of cleanliness at stations and in trains, an action plan has been formulated and a cleanliness drive has been launched from 1.1.1996. The action plan includes intensive inspection by Senior Officers at stations and in trains, repairing of toilets, provision of dustbins, travelling safaiwalas on trains, setting up of 'May I Help You' Booths for cleanliness, introduction of 'Pay & Use' system toilets and entrusting the cleanliness work to Non-Governmental Organisations like Sulabh International, filling up of vacancies of safaiwalas, engaging part-time safaiwalas etc.

(c) The progress made so far broadly is as under :-

1. 7946 inspections of Stations and 6833 of trains have been conducted by the officers.
2. Repairs of 3,891 toilets have been undertaken so far
3. Pay & Use System for toilets has been introduced at 398 stations and cleanliness work has been entrusted to NGOs like Sulabh International at 193 stations.
4. 11000 dustbins have been provided at various railway stations.

5. Travelling safaiwalas have been provided in 284 trains.
6. More than 1500 full time/part time safaiwalas have been engaged.
7. 'May I Help You' Booths for cleanliness have been set up at 246 stations.
8. Advertisement Boards/Hoardings have been rearranged at important stations to give a decent look, to stations.
9. Posters, banners on cleanliness have been displayed at prominent locations at all important stations.
10. Announcements on cleanliness are being made at all stations provided with Public Address System.

The information regarding amount spent by the Railways on cleanliness is being collected.

[Translation]

#### Yoga in Schools

201. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start yoga classes in the schools of Uttar Pradesh and some other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and

(c) the financial assistance to be given by the Union Government for the purpose, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPANSINDHU BHOI) : (a) to (c). Starting of Yoga Classes in State run schools comes under the purview of the State Governments concerned. However, the Central Government is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Promotion of Yoga in Schools', under which financial assistance is provided to State Governments/Yoga Institutions, for training of teachers in yoga. Financial assistance amounting to Rs. 29.97 lakhs, Rs. 60.00 lakhs and Rs. 25.31 lakhs has been provided to the States under this Scheme during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively.

[English]

#### Funding of Elections

202. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of recent disclosures made in Jain Hawala case, the Government propose to expedite decision on State funding of elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b). Government has recently held consultations with Political Parties on certain aspects of election expenses and funding thereof. The matter is receiving active consideration of the Government

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Inclusion of Books in Curriculum

203. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the books included in the curricula in Uttar Pradesh are the same as were being taught five years back and which contain the information about the late Prime Minister;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPANSINDHU BHOI) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

#### Gauge Conversion

204. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT

SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether any feasibility report for the conversion of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar and Ahmedabad-Vijapur Railway Lines into broadgauge lines have been prepared;

(b) whether report has been sent to the Government of Gujarat for comments; and

(c) if so, the details of action plan and when the construction works are likely to be taken in hand and the date of their completion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) Survey has been done for conversion of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur-Chittoargarh. No survey has been done for conversion of Ahmedabad-Vijapur section