

1	2	3	4
6.	Bhimadolu-Nidadavolu- Rajahmundry and Samalkot-Annavaram- Anakapalli (Part of Vijayawada- Vishakhapatnam)	179 South Central	Andhra Pradesh
7.	Jamtara-Jhajha-Jamui (Part of Sitarampur- Mughalsarai)	146 Eastern	Bihar

(b) In the State of Kerala the electrification work is in progress on section Walayar-Ernakulam including Cochin Harbour Terminus. The section Walayar-Shoranur is likely to be electrified by 31.03.1997 and it is planned to complete electrification of the entire section by 31.03.1998 provided that adequate funds are made available in time.

Rail Link in Andhra Pradesh

3123. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether surveys have been conducted to establish a rail-link between Pathancheru-Sangareddi-Medak-Siddipet towns in the Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of surveys conducted so far;

(c) whether in a survey conducted recently, it has been decided to connect these towns and Andhra Pradesh by the rail; and

(d) if so, the full details thereof and the time expected to be taken for finalisation of the project work as well as completion of the job?

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

(b) An updating of survey for a new broad gauge line from Patancheru to Akanapet via Sangareddi and Medak was conducted by South Central Railway in 1994. The results of the survey have revealed the cost of the 102 kms. long line as Rs. 130.74 crores and the project has been found to be unremunerative. Two surveys have so far been conducted for the suggested line, i.e. in 1981 and 1994.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Autonomy to States

3124. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are demands from some States of the country for giving more autonomy to them;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to follow a uniform policy in this regard in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). The Minimum Programme of the Government refers to a new articulation of 'States rights' and seeks to strengthen the forces of political federalism with a strong Centre, strong States and viable local bodies. The document states that the Government will advance the principles of political, administrative and economic federalism and effect devolution of powers and decentralisation of authority. For this purpose, the Government intends to pursue a two-track policy. On the first track, the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on which there is already a broad consensus, will be implemented through legislation and administrative action as appropriate. On the second track, the Government proposes to appoint a High Level Committee to review and update the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission and also to look into the vital question of devolution of financial powers from the Central Government to the State Governments.

[Translation]

Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958

3125. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the States where Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act is in force;

(b) since when this Act came into force first time. State-wise;

(c) the reasons for keeping the same in force;

(d) whether continuation of this Act has been reviewed from time to time; and

(e) if so, when such a review had been last made. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Armed forces (Special Powers) Act is presently promulgated in the following States :

1. Assam
2. Nagaland
3. Manipur
4. Mizoram
5. Meghalaya
6. Arunachal Pradesh
7. Tripura
8. Punjab
9. Chandigarh UT
10. Jammu and Kashmir

(b) As per information available, the Act came into force from the dates mentioned against each :

1. Assam	since	27 November, 1990
2. Nagaland	since	7 April, 1995
3. Manipur	since	28 September, 1970
4. Arunachal Pradesh	since	17, September, 1991
5. Punjab	since	15 October, 1983
6. Chandigarh UT	since	15 October, 1983
7. Jammu & Kashmir	since	5 July, 1990

(c) to (e). Continuance of the Act is considered necessary to contain the militancy and secessionist activities in these States. The situation is kept under constant watch and review for determining and continuation of the said provision. The ground situation does not warrant withdrawal of the powers under the Act at this point of time.

[English]

Eco Development Authority

3126. SHRI SUKH RAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of considerable soil erosion in the North Western Himalayas on account of indiscriminate felling of forests, the Government propose to constitute Eco Development Authority for Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh hills so as to ensure that a concrete policy is prepared and effective steps are taken to prevent soil erosion which has been effecting lives and properties of people living in plain areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). No such proposal to constitute Eco Development Authority for Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh hills is under consideration of the Government.

Procurement of Milch Cattle

3127. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy for procuring improved breed of milch cattle like Cows, Buffaloes, Goats taking into consideration acute shortage of milk and milk products in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is assisting the States and Union Territories to increase the productivity of cattle/buffaloes/goats by making available superior germ plasm.

The broad policies are as under:

- (1) Progressive genetic improvement of cattle, buffaloes and goats breeds by selective breeding in their home tract and upgrading local cattle/buffaloes/goats in other areas.
- (2) Cross-breeding of non-descript cattle/goats with exotic dairy breeds for introducing superior genes for higher milk production.

[Translation]

Discontinuation of the Hatia-Chandigarh Express

3128. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for discontinuation of the Hatia-Chandigarh Express;

(b) whether the Government propose to reintroduce the Hatia-Chandigarh Express;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). A portion of Tata/Muri-Pathankot Express was running between Hatia and Chandigarh and this was discontinued in view of less traffic on that portion and the need for more accommodation towards Amritsar. Therefore, there is no proposal to restore this service for the present.

[English]

Reduction in the Passenger Capacity

3129. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reduced the passenger capacity in Karala Express inspite of the heavy rush throughout the year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to restore the full original capacity?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.