

Out of the total land requirement of 35.4 Acres for the two sewage treatment plants, 26.5 Acres of land has been already acquired. The acquisition process for the remaining land is in progress.

(f) Meetings with the State Government and the implementing agency are being held regularly and monitoring of progress of Detailed Project Report preparation and land acquisition on monthly basis through project Consultants is being done.

[English]

Passenger Amenities Cells

3170. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the South Central Railway has set up monitoring cells to oversee and ensure passenger amenities, cleanliness, punctuality and quality of catering services;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) whether the rail users have been asked to contact these monitoring cells to redress their complaints; and

(d) the extent to which these cells have been found helpful to the rail users?

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

(b) Monitoring Cells have been set up at Secunderabad, Zonal Headquarter of South Central Railway and in five Divisional Headquarters at Vijaywada, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Hubli and Guntakal.

(c) The names of nodal officers of these cells with their telephone numbers and FAX numbers have been advertised in newspapers to enable rail users approach them with their suggestions/complaints.

(d) Prompt action is initiated on these suggestions/complaints and they are effectively used as a feedback for improvement of services rendered to rail users.

New Railway Station at Khurigachi

3171. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of a demand for opening of a new Railway Station at Khurigachi between Bhadreswar and Baidyabati in the Howrah-Bandel section of Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government so far to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The proposal for opening of passenger halt at Khurigachi

between Baidyabati and Bhadreswar stations has been examined but not found justified on operational, engineering and financial grounds. Besides, the proposal has also not been found justified on passenger amenity grounds due to availability of other modes of transport for people to commute in that area.

[Translation]

Pollution in Gujarat

3172. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of industrial units of Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Jamnagar and other districts of Gujarat are causing environmental pollution;

(b) whether some Ministers of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies, Environmentalists, organisations and prominent persons have submitted details and memoranda to the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the number and names of industrial units against whom petitions were submitted between January 1, 1990 and June 30, 1996; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to shift/close down these units alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) According to the Gujarat Pollution Control Board, certain chemical units located in Ahmedabad are having pollution potential. The units located in Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Jamnagar area are generally having little pollution potential. The units situated in and around Ahmedabad in the industrial Estates of Naroda, Vatva and Odhav are dye and dye intermediates manufacturing units, textile processing units and other chemicals units, and are posing pollution problem mainly due to inadequate effluent collection and disposal system. A number of public interest litigations have been filed in the Gujarat High Court. The Hon. High Court has directed the industries to instal the Common Effluent Treatment Plants. The internal effluent system is also planned by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) in consultation with the Industries Association of the industrial estates.

(b) and (c). No specific complaint has been received against individual units but general complaints/memoranda have been received regarding the pollution problems in the industrial areas. However, a specific complaint regarding fish mortality was revived from an Hon'ble Member of Parliament on the incidents caused by effluent discharged by the Indian Rayon Corporation Ltd., Veraval, Dist. Jhunagadh. The State Board has directed the Indian Rayon Corporation to carry out a marine survey in this regard.