

stoppages and destination from Dum Dum to Princepghat is as under :

Stations	Distance (Kms)
1. Dum Dum to Patipukar	1.520
2. Patipukar to Ulta Danga	2.895
3. Ulta Danga to Tala	4.740
4. Tala to Bag Bazar	6.118
5. Bag Bazar to Sova Bazar	7.669
6. Sova Bazar to Burra Bazar	8.780
7. Burra Bazar to BBD Bagh	10.299
8. BBD Bagh to Chandpaighat	11.187
9. Chandpaighat to Eden Garden	11.501
10. Eden Garden to Princepghat	12.959

(c) and (d). The extension of Circular Railway from Princepghat to Majerghat is under consideration for which a fresh Techno-Economic Report and cost Benefit Analysis Study is being undertaken. Taking up of the project depends upon result of the study and availability of resources in the coming years. The alignment does not pass through via Esplanade-Fort Williams.

(e) to (g). Do not arise.

Metro Railway

636 SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA . Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent for Metro Railway, Calcutta upto March, 1996.

(b) the time by which the first phase of Metro Railway would be completed and the details thereof including the total cost.

(c) the position of extension of the Metro Railway from Tollygunge to Garia and from Dum Dum to Barrackpore and

(d) whether the second stage of Metro Railway connecting Sealdah to Howrah, has been taken up and if so, the cost of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Rs. 1530.24 crores

(b) The full stretch of Calcutta Metro from Dum Dum to Tollygunge (16.45 Km) has been opened to passenger traffic w.e.f. 27.9.95. However, certain residual works are continuing and the project is expected to be completed by March '97, at an approx. cost of Rs. 1,610 crore.

(c) Under the revised Allocation of Business Rules, proposals for such rail based urban transport projects are now to be processed by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment and the State Government concerned. Railways will be prepared to render technical assistance, if so asked.

(d) No, Sir.

Fire Incident in Poorva Express

637. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of fire incident in Bogie No. 4806 of Poorva Express at Ghaziabad on May 1, 1996;

(b) if so, the loss suffered by the railways as a result thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter.

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against the accused; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid such occurrences in the future?

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

(b) The loss suffered by the railway amounted to Rs. 15,300 -

(c) and (d). An enquiry was conducted into the incident. The parcel and luggage loading staff of New Delhi station have been responsible for it. Action has been initiated against them.

(e) the following steps have been taken to check recurrence of such incidents :-

(i) Loading staff at all stations have been counselled not to smoke during loading and unloading of packages.

(ii) Electrical staff have been counselled to ensure that electric fittings are in order and fixed properly to avoid short circuits.

(iii) "No smoking" legend has been placed on SLRs (Brake Van).

(iv) Supervision by Parcel Clerks has been tightened.

Traders Flee Assam

638 DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Traders flee Assam" appeared in "The Hindustan Times" of June 20, 1996;

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to control the panic and restore confidence among the people of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the period preceding and immediately after the recent General Elections, there had been a sudden spurt in the activities of the ULFA in Assam, particularly in the districts of Nagaon, Nalbari and Tinsukia, where militants reportedly tried to extort money from traders. As a result, a section of businessmen is reported to have temporarily closed down their establishments and shifted to safer places to avoid harassment.

(c) The State Government was requested to take all necessary security/precautionary measures in this regard. In order to keep a control over the situation, police patrolling vigilance has been intensified. Checking of vehicles, etc. in all the vantage points has been stepped up.

Unauthorised Hawkers

639 SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of authorised hawkers for sale of eatables and articles at various Railways stations in the country, zone-wise;

(b) whether there is quite a number of hawkers at various Railway Stations; and

(c) if so, the Steps the Government propose to take to regularise these hawkers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) There are no authorised hawkers in the Railways. The sale of eatables/articles is done by vendors of the licenced contractors/Departmental units.

(b) Yes Sir

(c) As per policy, catering/vending licences are awarded by the Zonal Railways after following prescribed procedure and guidelines. It is not the policy to licence unauthorised hawkers.

Conversion of Agricultural Land

640 SHRI K C KONDAIAH Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that conversion of agricultural land for non-farm use has increased in recent years

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether the Government are considering to issue guidelines to be followed by State Governments to protect land for being diverted to non-farm use in the immediate future

(d) if so, the details of such guidelines and

(e) if not, the alternative measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) (a) to (e). Conversation of agricultural land for non-farm use such as housing, industrial development, transport, defence purposes etc. is taking place due to growing population and diversification of economic activity. Government of India have been repeatedly impressing upon all the States and Union Territories to protect good agricultural land from being diverted for non-agricultural purposes. In this regard Government of India has also formulated a National Land Use Policy Outline (NLPO) and recommended to the States for implementation. The NLPO inter-alia envisages the restructuring of urban policy to ensure that highly productive land is not taken away.

Self-Sufficiency in Urea

641 DR T SUBBARAMI REDDY Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government claim that country will be self-sufficient in urea production within two to three years, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLAI) (a) and (b) As per the latest projections of demand and indigenous production of urea, the country is not likely to attain self-sufficiency in urea production within the next three years.

Border Dispute

642 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute is pending for a very long time

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra has urged the Union Government to hold an opinion poll in the border areas.

(c) if so, the response of the Government thereto and

(d) the time by which a final solution is likely to be taken to solve the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) (a) Yes Sir

(b) to (d) In early 1989, the Government of Maharashtra had suggested holding of an opinion poll