

The conversion of the Manmad-Parbhani-Puri Vajinath metre gauge line into broad gauge is already in progress and recently a survey has been carried out for gauge conversion of Parbham-Mudkhed-Adilabad section and extension of the line from Adilabad to Ghugus. A decision regarding conversion of the metre gauge line from Parbhani to Mudkhed will be taken after the examination of the survey reports is completed and would depend upon the availability of resources.

Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Surveys for the conversion of Minaj-Kurduwadi-Latur Narrow Gauge section to broad gauge and construction of a new broad gauge line from Latur to Latur Road have been carried out. Due to paucity of funds it will not be possible to take up this project at present.

As regards the proposal for a line from Aurangabad to Sholapur (300 Kms), no survey has been made so far.

Improvement in double decker coaches

1996 SHRI K SURYANARAYANA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Railways are experimenting with double-decker coaches,

(b) if so, the reaction of the public to the same, and

(c) whether any suggestions for improvement of the new coaches have been received from the public?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF MADHU DANDAVATE):
(a) Yes

(b) The reaction of the public is satisfactory

(c) Yes, mainly in regard to:

- (i) provision of light luggage rack;
- (ii) increase in air circulation,
- (iii) provision of drinking water

Shortage of petrol and diesel in hilly areas

1997 SHRI R K AMIN Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is acute shortage of petrol and diesel in the hilly areas of Northern India and as a result a great deal of inconvenience is being faced by the pilgrims and tourists? and

(b) if so, reasons for the shortage and what steps Government proposes to take to meet the requirements and come to the rescue of pilgrims and tourists?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SHRI H N BAHUGUNA) (a) and (b) Though some temporary problems regarding availability of petrol and High Speed Diesel Oil in the retail outlets located in hilly regions of Northern India were experienced, corrective action was taken to avoid any acute shortage. Steps are also being taken to improve availability of these products for tourists and pilgrims.

Expenditure on election to State Assemblies

1998 SHRI DURGA CHAND Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the total expenditure incurred by Government on State Assemblies elections in 1977,

(b) whether Government have any scheme under their consideration to reduce the Government expenditure and the candidates' expenditure on elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS

(SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN) (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

(b) & (c) The Government have under consideration proposals for reform of the election law and the question of reducing expenditure on elections, including expenditure incurred by candidates, will also be considered

Electrification of Virar Sabarmati Railway line

1999 SHRI NATWAR LAL PARMAR Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the electrification of Railway line between Virar and Sabarmati is being undertaken,

(b) if so, when is the work likely to be completed,

(c) whether electrification on this line has been done only between Virar and Ahmedabad whereas the project is termed as Virar-Sabarmati electrification, and

(d) the reasons for leaving out 5 kms stretch from Ahmedabad to Sabarmati?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF MADHU DANDAVATE) (a) and (b) Electrification of track between Virar and Ahmedabad has already been completed

(c) Yes

(d) Traffic needs, at present, do not merit electrification upto Sabarmati.

खामगाव से जालना तक रेलवे लाइन का निर्माण-कार्य

2000 श्री डी० जी० नरई : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या वर्ष 1929 में महाराष्ट्र में खामगाव चिरवली से जालना (जिला बुलडाणा) तक रेलवे लाइन का कोई सर्वेक्षण कराया गया था और निर्माण कार्य भी शुरू हुआ था,

(ख) क्या उक्त रेलवे लाइन पर मिट्टी डालने का काम 30-40 मील तक हुआ था और उसके निर्माण कार्य के लिए धातु भी वहां पर जमा किया गया, यदि हा, तो उमकी लागत कितनी है, और

(ग) इस रेलवे लाइन पर निर्माण कार्य स्थगित करने के क्या कारण थे?

रेल मंत्री (श्री० मधु दंडावते) : (क) में (ग) खामगाव-जालम्ब के बीच पहले से ही बड़ी लाइन है मानचित्र में चिरवासी नामक स्थान का पता नहीं चल पा रहा है

दिल्ली से कटनी और इलाहाबाद होती हुई जबलपुर तक सीधी रेल गाड़ी

2001 श्री सुखेन्द्र सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या दिल्ली के लिए जबलपुर से बरास्ता, कटनी, सतना, इलाहाबाद कोई ऐसी सीधी रेल गाड़ी नहीं है, और