

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the distance between Sonapur and Barauni via Shahpur Patoree on North Eastern Railway is only 80 kilometre; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to convert this 80 kilometre line into broad gauge so as to reduce the time in covering the distance between Sonapur and Barauni ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir. The distance between Sonapur and Barauni, via Shahpur-Patoree, is about 91 kms.

(b) There is no proposal to convert this section into BG at present.

[English]

Relief to Salt Producers

6980. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to present shortage of wagons the salt Producers of Kharaghoda, Patdi and Dharngadhra in Gujarat have suffered incalculably; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to give relief of these Salt Producers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). While transport of Salt by rail from Kharaghoda, Patdi and Dharangadhra areas including Kuda was about 12 per cent more in 1984-85 over 1983-84, the movement of salt by trade in ships for Eastern India has declined, resulting in increased demand for rail transport in Gujarat.

Efforts are being made to further increase the availability of wagons for Salt loading in this area to the extent feasible.

Increase in the number of Beggars on Trains and at Platforms

6981. SHRI MULLAPAPLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware of the increase in the number of beggars in trains and at platforms;

(b) if so, the names of the divisions and the routes on which large number of beggars are found; and

(c) what deterrent action is being taken by Government to root out this menace once and for all ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). The Railway Administration is aware of the nuisance caused by beggars in trains and at platforms. However, as no statistics is maintained regarding the number of beggars on trains and on platforms it cannot be said that their number has increased of late.

(c) Railways organise regular checks and raids with the assistance of R.P.F., R.P.S.F., G.R.P. and Civil Police to remove the beggars from trains and stations.

[Translation]

Health Guide Workers State-wise

6982. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the total number of health guide workers deployed, State-wise, to look after the health of villagers under multi-purpose workers scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : Village Health Guide Scheme is a separate Scheme and not a part of the Multi-purpose Workers Scheme. The number of Health Guides trained State-wise is given in the statement attached.

Statement

Total number of Health Guide trained as per information received upto 31-3-85 (figures provisional)

State/UT

1. Andhra Pradesh	31534
2. Assam	17634
3. Bihar	10000
4. Gujarat	22852