

Passenger Amenities at Railway Stations In Orissa

2285. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 5 May, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 8288 regarding upgradation of railway stations in Orissa and state:

(a) the progress so far made in making up the deficiencies in basic amenities, like platforms, waiting halls, drinking water, lighting, toilets; etc. at all railway stations in Orissa; and

(b) when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). An Action Plan has been formulated to identify deficiencies in respect of basic amenities, as per norms, at all the stations including those in Orissa. Action has been taken to ensure that these deficiencies are eliminated by 1990-91, subject to availability of funds

Import of Coal

2286. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government propose to continue import of coal;

(b) if so, the quantity and cost thereof during 1990-91;

(c) whether there is any plan for proper utilisation of coal through blending washing etc. to stop import; and

(d) if so, the likely investment during Eighth Plan as compared to that of Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

During 1990-91, it is tentatively proposed to import 5.30 million tonnes of coking coal of CIF value Rs. 603.67 crores at current prices for use in Integrated Steel Plants.

(c) and (d). With a view to bring down the ash percentage of coal for supply to steel plants and thereby reduce imports, the coal companies have already taken up modernisation of washeries at an estimated cost of Rs. 132 crores to be completed by 1992-93. The total investment in washeries during the Seventh Plan period is expected to be about Rs. 168 crores and that in the Eighth Plan period has been tentatively estimated at Rs. 484 crores.

Requirement of Coal and Lignite

2287. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have estimated the requirement of coal and lignite during Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the shortage of coal is likely to continue during the Eighth Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (d). The Eighth Five Year Plan for the development of coal and lignite industries is yet to be finalised.

Frequency of Asansol-Bardhaman Local Train

2288. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the frequency of the existing Asan-

sol-Barddhaman local of Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Resource and operational constraints.

New Passenger Trains for Kerala

2289. PROF. K.V. THOMAS:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to run more trains to Kerala from New Delhi; Bombay and other places during 1990-91 in view of heavy traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). New trains are introduced at the time of revision of Time Tables twice in a year. In May '90 Time Table a weekly express train between Jammu Tawi-New Delhi-Mangalore is being introduced.

(c) Does not arise.

Prices of Finished Leather

2290. SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been abnormal

increase in the price of finished leather in West Bengal;

(b) whether smuggling of raw hide across the border to Bangladesh has adversely affected the small leather units in West Bengal; and

(c) the action being taken by Union Government to help the small scale units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is not aware.

(c) Government has taken the following policy measures for the benefit of leather industry.

(a) Export of raw hides and skins have been banned since licensing year 1973-74.

(b) Export of semi-finished leather are allowed under limited ceiling which is also likely to be discontinued with effect from 1.4.90.

(c) Export of finished leather is allowed, but CCS has been withdrawn w.e.f. 1.4.87. In addition, Government is reviewing the export policy keeping in view to make finished leather available for leather goods manufacturers.

(d) Duty free import under OGL has been allowed of raw-hides/skins/chrome tanned leather, crushed leather and finished bovine leather to augment availability of leather to production units at international price.