

CONCESSION TO JOURNALISTS IN TRAIN FARE

1074. SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of concession given to accredited journalists in the rail journey;

(b) whether this concession applies to the second class air conditioned coaches also; and

(c) if so, the percentage of concession provided therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Rail travel coupon books at 25 per cent concession in I Class and 50 per cent concession in II Class are issued to the Press Correspondents Accredited to the Government of India and the State Governments/Union Territories for journeys performed on business connected with bonafide Press work.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

CONVERSION OF AGRA-KATHGODAM RAILWAY LINE

1075. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had accorded approval to convert Agra-Kathgodam metre-gauge line into broadgauge during 1990-91; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not making any progress in this regard and the steps taken in regard thereto so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Construction of a new BG line from Rampur-Haldwani-Kathgodam has already been taken up and is targeted for completion in 2 to 3 years time. Therefore, BG link from Agra to Kathgodam via Aligarh would be established.

BARHAN-ETAH RAILWAY LINE

1076. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Barhan-Etah railway section is running in loss continuously;

(b) whether the number of goods trains plying on this section is limited; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to meet the losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Goods trains are being ordered as per traffic offering, which is intermittent.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE ELECTRICITY BOARDS

1077. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial assistance given to the State Electricity Boards during the last two years by the Rural Electrification Corporation; and

(b) the details of the number of villages electrified during that period, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) The Rural Electrification Corporation has furnished financial assistance as loan to the tune of Rs. 71.278 lakhs and Ra. 70,049 lakhs (provisional) to the State Electricity Boards during 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively.

(b) A statement indicating the State-wise number of villages electrified during the period 1989-90 and 1990-91 is given below :

Statements
Statewise number of villages electrified under REC Programmes

Sl. No.	State	1989-90	1990-91
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	391	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	160	85
3.	Assam	611	310
4.	Bihar	2318	735
5.	Goa	—	—
6.	Gujarat	—	—
7.	Haryana	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	43	34
10.	Karnataka	—	—
11.	Kerala	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4065	2977
13.	Maharashtra	—	—
14.	Manipur	172	211
15.	Meghalaya	233	101
16.	Mizoram	95	50
17.	Nagaland	2	—
18.	Orissa	865	1361
19.	Punjab	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	1923	760
21.	Sikkim	30	36
22.	Tamil Nadu	—	—
23.	Tripura	174	200
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1832	2207
25.	West Bengal	1500	1152
TOTAL		14414	10219

INCREASE IN COAL PRICES

1078. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of coal have been increased more than double during the last three years ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices in public interest ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYA-MAGOUA) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Since the cost of inputs, over most of which coal companies have no control, keep going up, it is not possible to bring the prices down. Some of the major steps taken by coal companies to control cost of production are as follows :—

(1) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers