

Yard at Pathardih

3040. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for remodeling of the Yard at Patnardi, South Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). The work of Pathardih-Sudamdih - Upgradation of facilities for introduction of passenger services is already in progress. This will include additions and alteration in Pathardih Yard.

Maintenance of Track between Vijayawada and Madras

3041 SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents and derailments that have taken place on Vijayawada-Madras section during last one year;

(b) whether poor track maintenance is one of the main reason for the increase of these incidents;

(c) if so, the steps taken to keep track in perfect condition in this section; and

(d) the amount earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There were seven consequential train accidents between Vijayawada and Madras Central railway stations during 1991-92.

(b) There was no increase in train accidents between these two stations during 1991-92 as compared to 1990-91.

(c) Does not arise. All the same, steps taken include completion of 62 Kms. of track renewals in 1992-93, increased level of attention to and monitoring of track geometry and testing of rails.

(d) Rs. 23.68 crores has been provided for track renewals during 1992-93.

Operation Black Board

3042. SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme of achieving universal elementary education through 'Operation Black Board' has received a set back;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount released and spent so far for various phases of Operation Black Board in the country, phase-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the amount allocated during 1992-93; under this programme, State-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

The scheme of Operation Blackboard has already covered 4.13 lakhs primary schools (77%) for providing minimum essential facilities. It is proposed to continue and expand this scheme in the 8th Plan.