

(c) Details are given below:-

I. *New Lines*

1. *Ekiakhi-Balurghat:*

The work was sanctioned in 1983-84. The work was frozen in 1986-87 and only taken outlays could be provided since then. The proposal to defreeze the project is under examination.

2. *Howrah-Amta-Champadanga:*

This line was sanctioned in 1974-75. The work was in progress and the section from Santrgachi to Bargachia was opened to traffic. Thereafter, the work was frozen in 1987-88 owing to acute constraint of resources and the need to progress lines required on urgent operational considerations. Only token funds have been provided since then.

Owing to developments in the last five years in the area, the Railway has been asked to carry out a reappraisal of costs and traffic potential to consider resumption of work on Bargachia-Munshirht sector of the line. Further action would be considered once the reappraisal report becomes available.

3. *Tmluk-Digha:*

This new line would link Digha which is a sea resort of West Bengal. Work on this line is in progress. Till now 16% progress has been achieved and Rs. 21.61 crores has been spent. The work on this line is slow owing to Railway's inability to provide adequate resources as there are a large number of ongoing new line projects which have to be funded out of the meagre funds

made available by the Planning Commission each year. Priority has to be given to works nearing completion and lines required on operational/strategic considerations for obvious reasons. The work on Tamluk-Digha section will be progressed with whatever funds it is possible to allocate to this project. Adequate funds are likely to be provided only after some of the urgent works are completed and the resource position improves.

[*Translation*]

Unauthorised Passengers in Reserved Compartments

3975. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received regarding travelling of passengers in reserved compartments without getting reservation or getting it by improper manner in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c). Some instances have come to notice. These are regarding entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches and allotment of accommodation to passengers ignoring the RAC priority. The following steps have been taken to prevent such occurrences:-

(i) MST holders are generally not permitted to travel in Mail/Express trains. In many long

distance Mail/Express trains distance restrictions have been imposed to prevent short distance passengers from boarding these trains;

- (ii) Surprise checks are conducted with the help of GRP/RPF and Railway Magistrate, and unauthorised passengers found travelling in reserved coaches are detained and fined.
- (iii) Additional unreserved coaches have been attached in various trains to enable the passengers to travel without forcing into reserved coaches.
- (iv) In some trains reserved coaches have been replaced by unreserved coaches.
- (v) Passengers have been permitted to travel in Sleeper Class on some trains during day time on specified sections.
- (vi) Shuttle trains have been introduced at suitable timings connecting important stations to meet the needs of the daily commuters. Some coaches have also been earmarked in certain trains for their exclusive use.
- (vii) Surprise checks are also conducted against the staff to see if the priority of RAC passengers is being maintained. In case of dereliction of duty of the railway staff, the staff found responsible are taken up under the rules.

[English]

Railway Goods Shed

3976. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for re-opening of railway goods-shed at Changaracherry, Kottayam in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposal for re-opening of facility of Booking Goods Traffic from Chaganacherry station has been examined. However, it has not been found feasible it is not operationally convenient to handle the inward piece meal wagon load traffic. Besides, the adjacent stations viz. Chingavanam and Tiruvalla, located in close proximity are duly open for Goods traffic.

Monuments in Meghalaya

3977. SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of historical monuments in Meghalaya maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) the allocation made for the aintenance and upkeep of these monuments during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide necessary facilities at these monuments to make them attractive as tourist centres?