

9. New Delhi-Bhopal Shatabdi Express

10. Amarkantak Express

11. Mahanadi Express

Introduction of DMU Push-Pull service between Bhopal and Indore to intercity timings is being planned for 1995-96.

[English]

Conversion of Nadiad-Kapadvanj MG Line

338. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of conversion of Nadiad-Kapadvanj MG Line and its extension up to Modasa (new BG Line) has been held up;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the hurdles and to speed up its completion according to the schedule?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The work was held up for a few years due to lower operational priority and constraint of resources. However, it has been defroze in 1994-95 and Rs. 1 crore has been provided in this financial year. Preliminary arrangements for restarting this work are on hand.

(c) The work would be progressed for completion in the coming years subject to availability of resources.

Research Projects

339. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has recently issued new guidelines for undertaking research projects in various disciplines by permanent teachers in universities and colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating *inter-alia* the eligibility for participation, the amounts earmarked for projects in various disciplines, duration etc., and

(c) the amount earmarked for this scheme for 1994-95 and likely to be earmarked for 1995-96?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main features of the scheme of Major and Minor Research Projects as approved by the UGC at its meeting held on 28th April, 1994 are as under:—

I. Major Research Projects:

Any permanent teacher with Ph.D. degree who wishes to avail of financial support for a Major Research Project should submit the Research Project, through his

department/institution, to the UGC after the same has been scrutinised by a duly constituted Research Committee consisting of atleast two faculty members and one outside subject-expert to be appointed by the head of the institution.

The following will be the maximum level of assistance for Major Research Projects.

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| (i) Science, Engineering and Technology. | Rs. 7.00 lakhs |
| (ii) Humanities, Social Sciences and Languages. | Rs. 5.00 lakhs |

The revised guidelines further provide that academicians may be allowed to work on Research Project, upto the age of 70 years.

The Project is awarded for a period of 3 years which is extendable by 2 years on a year to year basis, depending upon the progress of the work done.

II. Minor Research Project:

Any college teacher who wishes to avail of financial support for a Minor Research Project, should submit the Research Project to the UGC through his/her Deptt. College and the proposal may be forwarded by the Principal of the College to the University to which the college is affiliated and the Director of Collegiate Education.

The level of assistance for Minor Reserch Projects is as under:—

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| (i) Science, Engg. & Technology. | Rs. 40,000/- |
| (ii) Humanities, Social Sciences and Languages. | Rs. 30,000/- |

The project is awarded for a period of 2 years which is extendable by six months depending upon the progress of the work done.

(c) According to the information furnished by the UGC, an outlay of Rs. 5.75 crore has baeen earmarked for the scheme in 1994-95 and Rs. 8.20 crore in 1995-96.

Cancellation of sugar contract

340. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director of Food Corporation of India has recently recommended for the cancellation of import of sugar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the sugar import is affecting foreign reserves; and

(d) if so, the plans of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Director of Food Corporation of India, vide his letter dated 15.10.1994, had requested for cancellation of the balance imports of sugar being undertaken by State Trading Corporation of India/Minerals & Metals Trading