

Oza Committee

344. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- whether the Railways have set up Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Oza;
- if so, the terms of reference of the Committee;
- whether the Committee has given its reports;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the report?

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

(b) The Oza Committee was asked to examine various alternative alignments for the Konkan Railway in Goa State considering all representations in that regard and recommending the best alignment to be followed.

- Yes, Sir.
- A statement is attached.
- The report has been accepted in toto.

Statement

The Committee in its final report has recommended that "the approved alignment of the Konkan Railway would be the most useful for the service to the people both for passenger and goods traffic" and that "it could not be doubted that the present alignment is the best alignment from 'environment impact' angle". The Committee has further stated—"looking to all these circumstances, cost, convenience and minimum damage to environment and forests, the present route appears to be the best and the only route."

However, considering the need to avoid environmental damage and to take care of the sentiments of the people, the Committee has recommended certain improvements in the scheme which are briefly listed below:

- To provide viaducts on Dewar island and Zuari approach wherever the embankment is higher than 10 mtrs.
- The hillock on Dewar island damaged by earthwork should be terraced.
- Anti-vibration measures should be taken in the tunnel near the Chapel on the hill to prevent any damage.
- Additional waterways be provided in the Khazan lands wherever fishing boats have to pass.
- Fencing/boundary wall be provided where the railway track is passing through settlement areas. Necessary foot bridge be provided where school children have to cross.

Supply of Railway Wagons in Rajkot

345. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- the number of Railway wagons provided for loading and unloading purposes of export/import of goods to Gandhidham and Kandla stations on Kachh District in Rajkot division till date;
- whether the Government propose to increase the number of wagons provided for this purpose; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) During 1994-95 (upto February, 1995) details of wagons provided for loading and unloading are given below:

	<i>(wagons in 4-wheeler units)</i>	
	BG	MG
Loading	139448	124179
Unloading	62573	2388

(b) and (c) The wagons on Indian Railways are in common pool and are supplied in different areas according to priority and demand.

Production of Burley Tobacco

346. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- whether the Government propose to encourage the cultivation of Burley tobacco in Andhra Pradesh;
- if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- whether any explanatory trials have also been conducted in different zones of the country to identify the new areas for the production of high quality Burley tobacco;
- if so, the names of areas identified so far; and
- the time by which production of Burley tobacco is likely to start in these new areas along with the measures contemplated by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Burley tobacco is grown in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh. Crop Production technologies have been evolved by Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI). This Institute is also conducting research for evolving new varieties and increasing its productivity.

(c) to (e) Exploratory trials are conducted in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh and Vijayanagaram and Kakakulam districts of Andhra Pradesh. Some trials were also conducted at Rajagada District of Orissa for identifying new areas for the production of high quality Burley tobacco. Exploratory trials conducted in Orissa is not yielding encouraging results and hence further trials were