

(c) However, the following preventive measures have been adopted to cut down/prevent pilferage of coal from wagons in transit :

1. Escorting of block loads of coal from coal fields to various destination points by armed RPF is undertaken as far as possible.
2. Crime intelligence staff of the RPF are detailed to collect intelligence about the activities of coal thieves.
3. Beat-cum-patrolling duties have been introduced in big yards.
4. Frequent raids and searches are conducted by the RPF and Police in vulnerable areas.
5. Surprise checks are being conducted in vulnerable sectors and black spots to catch the criminals red-handed.
6. Dog squads are used to patrol vulnerable yards and affected sections.

During the calendar year 1994, forty three Railway employees were arrested and prosecuted for their involvement in pilferages of coal. No RPF staff was arrested in coal thefts during this period.

Tilak Bridge

6732. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Central Railway has delayed the slab-laying work on Tilak Bridge at Dadar Railway Stations;

(b) the reasons for delaying the work;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to start; and

(d) whether any time-bound scheme has been chalked out by the Government to complete the work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). This 'deposit' work being carried out by Central Railway was started in Sept. '94 after the full cost was deposited by Bombay Municipal Corporation in March '94. Work is expected to be completed by 30.6.1995.

[Translation]

Oil-Spill

6733. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the loss suffered on account of oil-spill from the oil tanker of Denmark in the sea along the coast of Andaman Islands in 1993;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the extent of loss suffered;

(d) whether in order to compensate the loss any correspondence was made with the Government of Denmark and Japan;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). There was a spillage of oil due to a collision between Danish Super Tanker "Maersk Navigator" and Japanese ship "Sank Honour" on 21 January, 1993 at sea, North of Sumatra. As a result of this accident, the spilled oil drifted into Indian waters near Andaman Island. On the basis of the study carried out by National Institute of Oceanography, Goa and other organisations, the loss estimated was 1500 to 2250 tons of exploitable living marine resources in the Andaman Sea which in financial terms was computed to the tune of Rs. 6.75 crores. An additional amount of Rs. 13.6 crores was spent by various Government agencies for the clean-up operation.

(d) and (e). No correspondence has been made with the Governments of Denmark and Japan as the compensation of loss was to be paid by the P & I Club of the Shipowners. The above mentioned claims have already been filed with the P & I Club.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

6734. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey for construction of Board Gauge line from Pancharanta-Joghghopa to Silchar through Meghalaya has been conducted;

(b) if so, the main features of the survey report;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to start; and

(d) the total distance of this line from Pancharanta-Joghghopa to Silchar?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir. The survey has been dropped.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) 500 kms.

Electrification of Railway Lines

6735. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the length of Railway Lines in Tamil Nadu;